



MESSAGES OF THE PRESIDENT
RAMON MAGSAYSAY
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Official Month in Review

President's Month in Review: January, 1954

Friday, Jan. 1 — The common people turned out en masse to attend President and Mrs. Magsaysay's first "at home" in Malacañan today. Men, women and children, many of them barefooted, many others in slippers or in bakya, streamed through the palace gates, milled around the President and shook hands with him, and then walked in and out of the rooms. Although the reception was scheduled to start at 10 a.m., the people started gathering at 7:30. It was supposed to close at 5 p.m., but the people stayed till much later.

Protocol Officer Manuel Zamora said that around 80,000 people entered the palace grounds. The visitors drank 19,200 bottles of softdrinks and ate 10,000 sandwiches.

A feature of the President's "at home" was the exchange of toasts between the chief executive and the diplomatic corps. For the first time, the President offered his toast with a cup of basi, the Ilocano drink, and some of the diplomats followed suit.

(From The Official Week in Review, January 9, 1954)

President's Month in Review: February, 1954

THE OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

February 1.—In the morning, the President received many callers, mostly, congressmen. He also held conference with Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta, Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, and Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro.

During his conference with Secretary Castro, the high sense of justice for which President Magsaysay is known, came to the fore when he reconsidered the appointment of Mateo Ferrer as acting assistant director of the Bureau of Printing in favor of Pedro Enriquez whose length of service, efficiency, and experience “rightly entitles him to the position.” In a letter to Enriquez, the President said in part: “. . . It will interest you to know, I am sure, that even prior to your letter, I had already directed Assistant Executive Secretary Jose S. Samson to look into the possibility that the information given me endorsing Mr. Ferrer for the position involved could have been wrong. . . It appears there that I had erred in making the appointment of Mr. Ferrer because of an incorrect presentation of facts by some of my assistants, but I am not one to deny justice to anyone who has been wronged. It is precisely for this reason that I am immediately rectifying the error and gladly considering the appointment of Mr. Ferrer in your favor . . .”

Late in the morning, the President administered the oath of office to new members of the Peace and Amelioration Fund Commission in a ceremony held at Malacañang's Council of State room. Those inducted were Manuel Elizalde, chairman; Yu Khe Thai, second vice chairman; Francisco Rodrigo; Antonio de las Alas; P. E. Domingo; Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma; Mrs. Trinidad F. Legarda; Eduardo Z. Romualdez; Mariano V. del Rosario; Ernesto Rufino; Dr. Albino Sycip; and Social Welfare Administrator Pacita Madrigal Warns as members. Other members are W. C. Palmer, acting president of the American Chamber of Commerce; Sy En, president of the Chinese General Chamber; and Navalrai Jethmal, an Indian businessman. Maj. Basilio Hernandez is the executive secretary of the commission.

In his informal talk, the President impressed upon the newly appointed members of the PAFC the importance of their mission—to raise funds to augment the limited financial resources of the government in connection with the peace-and-order campaign being waged in the country. The President also spoke of the need of sending to Mindanao surveyors, doctors, nurses, and medicine to accompany settlers there. He said surveyors should be assigned right away to determine parcels of land to be assigned to each settlers. In the past, he said, many settlers died of diseases within six months of their arrival in Mindanao owing to lack of medical care.

After the oath taking ceremony, the President proceeded to his study at the Palace where he received U. S. Secretary of the Army Robert T. Stevens and General John E. Hull, commanding general of the U. S. forces in Korea, who called to pay their respects in the course of their visit in the Philippines. The visiting American officials conferred with the President for 15 minutes during which they discussed matters of common interest to their countries. Present at the conference were Vice President Carlos P. Garcia, U. S. Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance, General Jesus Vargas, Charles Sullivan, Col. K. E. Be Lieu, Arthur Taylor Port, and Col. Carl Benson.

From the presidential study, the conferees went to the music room for cocktails. Then the group proceeded to the banquet hall where the President gave a luncheon in honor of the guests. The luncheon over, the President stood up to deliver a brief speech expressing hope for stronger PI-US friendship. In response, Secretary Stevens thanked the President for the courtesies he had received during his trip to the Philippines.

The President certified to Congress this day the urgency of enacting two measures—one, appropriating more than P5 million for the operation and maintenance of 3,000 additional extension classes, and the other, reviving the President's power to fix ceiling prices for prime commodities. This second bill calls for the creation of a price administration board to be composed of a chairman, with the PRISCO general manager as vice chairman, and three members representing consumers, producers, and distributors. Under the proposed law, the President, upon the recommendation of the price administration board, may establish “such maximum price or prices as shall be generally fair, reasonable, and equitable” for prime commodities.

The President was informed in a letter received this day from Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, Sr., that the latter had taken steps to implement, the President's decision to permit large-scale importation of frozen beef, livestock, and meat products to stabilize the meat situation for the duration of the one-year ban on carabao slaughter. Arrangement have been completed for the first shipment of frozen beef to leave Australia on February 12, the President disclosed. He expressed the hope that large-scale importation would soon follow.

February 2.—THE PRESIDENT began the day at 7 a.m. with a breakfast conference with Vice President Carlos P. Garcia, Labor Undersecretary Pantaleon Pelayo, and Davao Governor Alejandro Almendras. Then he had another long conference with Executive Secretary Castro during which he acted on a pile of pending state papers.

About 9 a.m., the President received the highway financing committee exposed of CB Governor Miguel Cuaderno, as chairman; Public Works Undersecretary Vicente Orosa, Rep. Florencio Moreno of Romblon, chairman of the House committee on public works; and Rep. Tobias Fornier of Antique, chairman of the House committee on appropriations, as members. The committee conferred with the President on the five-year program of concrete road building involving an initial appropriation of two million pesos. The President received callers until 12:10 p.m.

Shortly after noon, on the invitation of Immigration Commissioner Luis P. Torres, the President boarded his car and motored to the immigration office housed at the shell-torn engineering building of the UP on Florida Street in Ermita. Accompanied by Commissioner Torres, the President slipped unnoticed into the building and found most of the employees taking lunch at their desks from *fiambreras* or from wrappings of banana leaves. He found office records lying on the floor owing to lack of filing cabinets. Desks of employees were scattered about the floor, facing various directions to cover up large gaping holes on the concrete floor. "This does not look like an office at all!" the President said of the place where foreign visitors first go to upon arrival in this country. He instructed Commissioner Torres to confer with Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona on the needs of the office. The President expressed his desire to have the office rehabilitated as soon as possible in order to make it more presentable to foreign visitors. He also conferred with Commissioner Torres on the case of 90 Chinese recommended for deportation by the Deportation Board.

Realizing that it was already well past lunch time, the President invited Commissioner Torres to ride in his car, and dropped him at his residence on San Marcelino Street. Then he proceeded to the Manila Hotel where he presided over a luncheon conference with members of the Cabinet and Senate leaders. The President had an "exchange of views" with the conferees on matters pertaining to the legislative program; such as, the continuation of the price control law. All the members of the Cabinet except Executive Secretary Castro, Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., and Senator Jose P. Laurel attended the luncheon conference which lasted from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

From the Manila Hotel, the President took an automobile ride along Dewey Boulevard for an airing. Then he proceeded to the UST Hospital to visit his convalescing sister, Mrs. Concepcion Labrador. He stayed in the hospital about 15 minutes, leaving at 5:28 p.m. for the house of Oscar Arellano in San Juan, Rizal, to greet Arellano on his birthday.

The President returned to Malacañang late in the afternoon to find delegations waiting for him at the Palace. He told a Citizens Committee for Good Government delegation he received in the evening that it was with a heavy heart that he relieved Maj. Jose M. Crisol as NBI director, but, he explained, he had no alternative in the face of Crisol's defiance of his order to confer with him in Baguio. Relating the circumstances behind Crisol's relief from the NBI, the President told the group, composed of former Magsaysay-for-President-Movement members who had worked with Crisol during the campaign, that he had sent for Crisol twice in Baguio last Friday to ask the NBI chief to explain a newspaper report quoting the latter as charging a Malacañang official with "meddling" with an NBI investigation. Calling the former NBI chief "my boy," the President said he had always regarded Crisol almost as his own son. He pointed out, however, that his order to Crisol to see him was official, and the latter's refusal to answer the summon was an act of insubordination. "Where official matters are involved, I want to repeat," he said, "that my personal feelings will be set aside, no matter who gets hurt." The President said he himself was "hurt" by the necessity of relieving one as close to him as Crisol.

February 3.—ACCOMPANIED by Maj. Gen. Jesus Vargas, FOA Chief Harry Brenn, and officials of the LASEDECO, the President left Malacañang at 6:10 a.m. on a surprise inspection trip to Bulacan. He visited the 27,000-hectare settlement project in Akle, San Ildefonso, Bulacan, for surrendered Huks and deserving landless families. The presidential party was joined by Bulacan Governor Alejo Santos at Malolos. From there, they motored to the Bulacan Agricultural High School where the President surveyed the needs of both the school and the students. Commenting on the poor curriculum of public agricultural schools, the President deplored the situation in these schools saying that they teach very little agriculture. "I would like to see graduates learn how to repair a pump, a tractor, or be a practical farmer," he said. The President announced that he would call a meeting of all agricultural school officials soon in order to discuss a complete revamp of the curriculum of public agricultural schools.

At the end of the Akle visit, the President said that he would issue an executive order for the incorporation of the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Project office, headed by Bernard Gabermann, into the LASEDECO in order to centralize the work of processing and investigation of applicants for land settlement.

Under the new set-up, the NRRP will remain in its present site near Gate 6 in Malacañang and continue receiving applications for land settlement. The President expressed his desire to have Gabermann tackle another important work, that of helping to resettle slums dwellers in Manila.

The President returned to Malacañang a few minutes after noon. Shortly after his arrival at the Palace, the President received two Huks, who surrendered with their arms. They were commander Filemon Distajo, Huk leader in Rizal, Laguna, and Batangas; and Commander Amat, *alias* Manuel Caiyod, who figured in a raid on an MRR train in Biñan three years ago. The Huks said they surrendered because they had faith in President Magsaysay and his administration.

In the afternoon, the President received Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, who reported that three entities had already been authorized by the Central Bank to open letters of credit to import frozen meat and live cattle. The liberalized control on beef import was resorted to following President Magsaysay's ban on the slaughter of carabaos.

A delegation from the Philippine Dental Association, led by Dr. Bienvenido Eraña, was also received by the President. After reserving the PDA delegation, the President motored to Intramuros to inspect the squatter's district. He went up the houses of the squatters and inquired about their living conditions. The President expressed great concern upon learning of the miserable living conditions of the people in the area. He learned that there were no water facilities, no toilet facilities, and no medical facilities. He also noticed that some of the bombed floors of the buildings under which the squatters live were threats to life and property,

Returning to Malacañang at 6:30 p.m., the President immediately presided over the meeting of the Cabinet. During the Cabinet meeting the President directed Education Secretary Pastor M. Endencia to go "ruthlessly" after the diploma mills whose quality of instruction is below the standard prescribed by law. Endencia was also directed to re-study the curricula of agricultural schools and make them more responsive to present demands. Schools that are found lacking in standard equipment and facilities should be closed, the President told the Education Secretary. The President also announced that, henceforth, charity and health institutions will be given priority in the allocation of funds from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

The President inducted Perfecto E. Laguio, vice-chancellor and dean of the colleges of law and commerce of the Abad Santos Educational Institution, as acting undersecretary of commerce and industry. He replaces Saturnino Mendinueto, resigned.

After the Cabinet meeting, the President returned to his yacht *Pagasa* for a cruise to the South. Shortly before boarding the yacht, the President announced he will prepare the 1955 national budget in the course of his trip. Among those who left with the President were Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, Public Works Undersecretary Vicente Orosa, Health Secretary Paulino Garcia, Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro. Maj. Gen. Robert M. Cannon, chief of the JUSMAG, and Minister William Lacy of the American Embassy. The presence of the last two led to reports that the President might take up with the two American officials the proposed reactivation of U. S. military and naval bases in the Philippines.

February 4.—AFTER pouring over state papers with Executive Secretary Castro in the morning aboard the yacht *Pagasa*, the President resumed his conversation with top budget officials. He discussed with them the draft of his budget message to Congress. The President said his message will lay emphasis on building the national economy from the grass roots. He took up with Budget Commissioner Aytona, Deputy Budget Commissioner Faustino SyChangco, Executive Secretary Castro, Col. Osmundo Mondoñedo, and Fernando Dizon of the budget office every single item and paragraph of the 11-page legal-size draft of his message.

The President made a brief stop-over at Romblon, Romblon, in the afternoon. The visit had been intended to be a surprise, but when the yacht docked at the wharf, a big crowd of welcomers gathered along the shore to greet the Chief Executive and party. From the wharf the President proceeded to the marble project of the Cebu, Portland Cement Company. There he announced that he would take steps to protect the local marble industry by ordering the government to buy its marble not from abroad but from the local market.

The President returned to the yacht at 6 p.m. and sailed for Catbalogan, Samar. In the evening, he resumed his conferences with his advisers over the national budget.

Acting Quezon City Vice Mayor Norberto Amoranto was inducted in the afternoon at Malacañang as acting mayor of Quezon City. Isidro Guevara, president of the Nacionalista Party chapter in that city, was sworn in as acting vice mayor of Quezon City, vice Amoranto. These two took their office oath before Assistant Executive Secretary Enrique Quema after the receipt of instructions to this effect from the President who was cruising aboard the *Pagasa* the Visayas.

February 5.—THE PRESIDENT woke up early in the morning and had another huddle with the budget officials at 7 o'clock. About 8:45 a.m., the President landed at the isolated town of Zumarraga, Samar. This town of 10,000 population had no physician nor nurse nor medical supplies until last week when on an urgent complaint of its mayor, the President, through the PCAC, sent a physician, a nurse, and medical supplies. The President wanted to visit the inhabitants and find out how they are getting along; hence, the unannounced visit. Accompanied by town officials, the President inspected the town, stopping several times on the way to talk with the people, especially the school children. The President was told that fishing, the only source of livelihood of the people here, was dying out because net-using trawlers were dragging and scraping sea weeds in which fishes spawn. Acting on the information, he said that immediately upon arriving in Manila he would call on Fisheries Director Deogracias Villadolid to declare all spawning areas off-limits to trawlers. He said Commodore Jose M. Francisco of the Philippine Navy would be instructed to enforce this order upon its issuance. The Chief Executive was shocked to learn that a certain woman of that town died of child-birth the night before without benefit of medical attention, because the physician who had been sent to the town the previous week on duty had gone to Catbalogan to meet the President. The Chief Executive flared up and ordered that all officials should stay put in their jurisdiction and not abandon their posts to meet him or other visiting government dignitaries.

The President returned to the yacht at 9:35 a.m. Aboard the yacht, he announced the appointment of the new members of the board of governors of the Philippine National Red Cross; namely, Health Secretary Paulino Garcia, Education Secretary Pastor M. Endencia, Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, Maj. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Social Welfare Administrator Pacita Madrigal Warns, and Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez. The President also disclosed that he had instructed Malacañang officials to charge to his salary all expenses incurred by his personal guests at the presidential residence. He said this policy would also apply to similar cases on board the yacht *Pagasa* and in the President's out-of-town residence, such as the Guest House in Baguio, and will also hold true with the guests of Mrs. Magsaysay and their children. This presidential policy took effect retro-actively on the day President Magsaysay assumed office last December.

The President continued scrutinizing the budget in the morning with his advisers, eyeing every item, using the pruning knife on those which he deemed unnecessary but including new or increasing items which he believed would result in greater and more beneficial service to the people. He increased appropriations for provincial, municipal, and city hospitals; for the University of the Philippines; and for postal savings banks. He also included a new item for the propagation of *tilapia* fish. The *Pagasa* lay at anchor off Canaway Island from 10 a.m. to 3:15 p. m. as it waited for a pilot to guide her through the treacherous San Juanito Strait in Tacloban.

The presidential yacht *Pagasa* arrived at Tacloban, Leyte, at 4:30 p.m. A delegation composed of Rep. Mateo Canonoy, Mayor Ildefonso Cinco, Provincial Treasurer Melecio Palma, and Lt. Col. Vicente Lim, provincial commander, boarded the yacht to welcome the President. Aboard the yacht the Chief Executive conferred with Judges Segundo Moscoso and Juan Bocar, who reported that there was a big backlog of court cases in Leyte. They asked the President to increase the number of judges to cope with the situation.

Later in the afternoon, the President left the boat and went to the largest Chinese store in Catbalogan. He asked for the sales book and the sales receipts of the store as he did in a store he inspected in Zumarraga in the morning. He warned the stores he visited that entries in the sales book should be made promptly and that sales receipts should be issued faithfully to customers. The President advised the store owners to pay their taxes to the government.

New members of the board of directors of the NARIC were inducted into office in Malacañang in the afternoon by Assistant Executive Secretary Mariano A. Yenke, Jr. The new members are Placido Mapa, Victor Buencamino, Felix de la Costa, and Luis Ortiz.

February 6.—THE presidential yacht *Pagasa* docked at the Masbate wharf at 6:15 a.m. to enable budget official headed by Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona to take a plane for Manila to print the budget for submission to Congress. The President conferred in his cabin with Gov. Vicente M. Quisumbing, Masbate Mayor Benjamin Magallanes, and Forester Florentino C. Verzosa on the progress of the 2,000-hectare settlement project in Masbate for the 51 prisoners whom the President pardoned about three weeks ago. The President was very pleased with the Governor's work and initiative in implementing the rural uplift project of the government. He also praised the PC provincial commander, the superintendent of the Masbate Agricultural School, and Forester Verzosa for their collaboration in making the project a success. The *Pagasa* pulled out of Masbate at 6:45 a.m. for Catbalogan, Samar.

After an early morning breakfast, the President rolled up his sleeves and sat down to work on state papers with Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro. They kept working up to noontime. Every now and then, the President called Public Works Undersecretary Vicente Orosa for consultation, or his aides to take down messages for transmission.

Before noon, the President sent a wire to MWD Manager Manuel Mañosa, congratulating him and his men on the fast work on the waterworks and sewage systems of the National Mental Hospital and the waterworks in Barrio Pinagbuhatan, Pasig, Rizal. He urged Maws to keep up the good work. The President also cabled President Sy En of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce his thanks for the organization's pledge to support his policies enunciated in his state-of-the-nation message to Congress. The President's message was in reply to a letter from Sy, expressing the Chinese organization's desire to "cooperate heartily" with the administration's policy, "particularly on your recommendation to the Congress that the increased penalty for tax evaders should take effect after a fixed date."

The *Pagasa* carrying the presidential party arrived in Catbalogan, Samar, at 3 p.m. The President was met by a large delegation headed by high ranking provincial officials of Samar and by Gov. Bernardo Torres of Leyte. The President inched his way through a milling crowd at the wharf, shaking hands as he went along. Then he motored to the provincial capitol where he conferred with provincial officials up to 4 p.m., discussing with them the problems and needs of the province.

The President was literally mobbed upon arrival at the athletic stadium at 4:45 p.m. He was guest of honor and main speaker at the close of the East Visayan Athletic Association meet this day. Speaking extemporaneously before the cheering thousands gathered at the stadium, the President said his administration was, committed to promote the welfare of the rural masses and that he was ready to give the province all available help in the construction of roads and the building of artesian wells for the people's health. With characteristic frankness, the Chief Executive told the huge gathering that while he was athletics-minded and had always enjoyed sports since boyhood, he regretted that the holding of athletic meets entailed great expense on the part of the government and the people. He added it might be wiser to channel expenses for athletic competitions to the more urgent requirements of the population in these times of financial difficulty.

The *Pagasa* pulled out for Cebu at 7:40 p.m.

February 7.—PRESIDENT MAGSAYSAY arrived in Cebu City at 6:40 a.m. to find the city piers lined by thousands of welcomers. After shaking hands with many people he met, the President motored to the residence of former President Sergio Osmeña.

Together with President and Mrs. Osmeña, President Magsaysay proceeded to the Redemptorist Church, arriving in time for the 7 o'clock mass. The Chief Executive declined the offer of the priest to occupy a special place at the foot of the altar. Instead, he sat with the Osmeñas in the first pew.

Following the mass, groups of churchgoers flocked around the President. From the church the President, with Sotero Cabahug, motored to the Archbishop's Palace where he called on Archbishop Julio Rosales. After a few minutes conversation with the Bishop, the President returned to the Osmeña residence for breakfast. Here he also inducted Sotero Cabahug as acting economic coordination administrator, Jesus M. Ciu as acting governor of Cebu, and Fructuoso Cabahug as provincial board member in place of Sotero Cabahug.

In inducting Secretary Cabahug, the President said that he needed an honest man for economic coordination administrator and that Cabahug was the man. He said that some of the government corporations under the Office of Economic Coordination might be sold or leased and that he expected honest deals in these government transactions. He took occasion to pay tribute to former President Sergio Osmeña's services to the country. He said that, although in retirement, President Osmeña still serves his people.

After the induction ceremonies at the Osmeña home, the President visited Rep. Miguel Cuenco. He told Mrs. Consuelo Cuenco Reyes, social welfare official in Cebu, that he was releasing P20,000 for the construction of a TB pavilion in Mandawe, Cebu.

At 9:20 a.m., the President left the Cuenco residence with former President Osmeña and motored to the pier to the pier to board *Pagasa*. There he was mobbed again by a cheering crowd. At the pier Jose Rampola and Emiliano Alejandro, two settlers bound for EDCOR, told the President they could not leave with their three carabaos because they did not have money. The President directed Col. Cornelio Bondad to ship these two settlers to EDCOR and charge the cost to the EDCOR project. One Mrs. Roca Aloba of Madridejos town, Bantayan Island, Cebu, kissed the President's hand and informed him she did not have enough passage money. Touched by her crying; the President gave the woman P20. On seeing a 12-year old boy with ulcers in his legs, the President directed a constabulary officer to take the ailing boy to an army hospital for treatment.

Cebu officials and friends followed the President to the *Pagasa* to bid him goodbye. Before the ship pulled out, President Magsaysay saw former President Osmeña to the ramp as the latter went down. As the *Pagasa* prepared to lift anchor, the President waved to the crowd at the pier and shouted: "*Daghay salamat.*" The crowd clapped their hands and shouted: "*Balikbalik, Presidente.*"

During the conference with Cebu officials at the home of former President Osmeña, President Magsaysay said he would like the Port of Cebu to be dredged deeper so that bigger ships could dock there. He directed Public Works Undersecretary Vicente Orosa to send immediately a dredger there.

Aboard the *Pagasa* the President in the evening named Francisco de la Rosa, head of the legal division of the Bureau of Immigration, as first deputy commissioner of immigration, vice Jesus Bautista, who resigned. The President also designated Consul Felipe Mabilangan to represent the Philippines at the sixth session of the ECAFE committee on industry and trade to be held in Candy, Ceylon. The President, moreover, signed a letter addressed to the Senate and the House of Representatives requesting approval of Congress of the award of foreign decorations to Filipino citizens; namely, Minister to Australia Roberto Regala, former Foreign Affairs Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde, 1st Lt. Manuel Maravilla, and 2nd Lt. Antonio Ledesma.

February 8.—AFTER four and a half days inspection trip to the Visayas, the President returned to Manila at 10:15 a.m. aboard the plane *Pagsa* which he had boarded at Calapan, Mindoro Oriental. The President and party left Cebu City the previous day aboard the yacht *Pagasa*, but as he was in a hurry to return to Manila he decided to continue

his return trip by plane. So he made an unscheduled stop-over at Calapan where he boarded his plane for Manila at 9:35 a.m., together with Bulacan Gov. Alejo Santos, Col. Bernard Anderson of the PAL, and some aides.

At noon, the President went to Leveriza, Pasay City, where he greeted Senator Claro M. Recto on the occasion of the latter's birthday.

In the afternoon, the President entertained at a cocktail party the surviving delegates to the Constitutional Convention on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution. Addressing extemporaneously some 70 of the 145 surviving delegates to the Constitutional Convention during the cocktail party, the President said that it was the privilege of his administration to implement the constitutional provision of promoting "social justice to insure the well being and economic security of the people." He said: "We have to fight for justice and humanity and I am sure that if we are anchored to the Constitution, we can tip the balance in favor of justice and humanity." He said there is a contest between elements of greed, selfishness, and injustice and the elements of justice and humanity. He said we have to make the poor people in the far flung villages and foothills in the country feel that social justice is something they can feel and touch and not only a mere thought.

Senator Claro M. Recto, president of the Constitutional Convention, headed the Constitutional delegates that attended the cocktail party. Vice President Carlos P. Garcia, justices of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals, judges of the courts of first instance, and members of the Philippine Lawyers' Association were among the guests at the cocktails.

After the cocktail party, the President received callers, including JCI President and Mrs. Douglas Hoge. The Hoges were accompanied by Roberto Villanueva, former JCI president. Acting Pasay City Mayor Adolfo C. Santos, who called in the evening, was congratulated by the President for his splendid work in clearing Pasay of gambling dens and corrupt officials.

The President dined with Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta, Brig. Gen. Eulogio Balao, and some newsmen with whom he discussed the rat infestation in Cotabato. The President announced the composition of the Council of State. He named 15 members to the body besides himself and the members of the Cabinet, all of whom will sit on the Council. Among the members of the Council are former President Sergio Osmeña, Senator Jose P. Laurel, the President of the League of Governors and City Mayors, NARIC General Manager Juan O. Chioco, the chairman of the National Economic Council, Alfonso Ponce Enrile, and Datu Mantil del Angalen to represent the Moro population. Other members of the Council besides the members of the Cabinet are the President and the President Pro tempore of the Senate, the Speaker and the Speaker Pro tempore of the House of Representatives, and the majority floor leaders of both Houses of Congress.

February 9.—AFTER an early breakfast, the President received a delegation headed by Gov. Rafael Lazatin of Pampanga. The delegation took up with the Chief Executive the finalization of the plans of the administration regarding tenancy problems and the construction of irrigation systems in Pampanga. The President later received Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, who submitted to him a printed copy of the 1955 national budget. The President, submitted the budget to Congress in the afternoon. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 551-559, for the full text of the President's budget message to Congress.)

At a presentation ceremony held in the morning at the Malacañang reception hall, the President presented to Spanish Ambassador Antonio Gullon Gomez a book-bound set of photostatic copies of the Rizal documents donated last year to the Philippine government by Spanish External Affairs Minister Martin Artajo. They consisted of memoirs and letters of Rizal while a student in Spain which were acquired by the Spanish government from private sources. The Philippines, as an act of gratitude, presented the book-bound photostatic copies of the document to the Spanish government. Vice President Carlos P. Garcia spoke before the documents were given by the President to the Spanish Ambassador, thanking the Spanish government for the valuable Rizal manuscript and reaffirming the strong ties that bind the Philippines and Spain. Ambassador Gullon Gomez delivered a brief speech of acceptance.

At noon, the President lunched at Malacañang with members of the House reorganization committee, headed by Rep. Apolinario Apacible of Batangas. The committee assured the President of their support of whatever moves may

be taken in Congress to reorganize the government machinery for greater efficiency and economy. The solons also pledged support of vital administration bills. The President agreed with a suggestion of the committee members that they invite members of the Cabinet to sit down with them and discuss reorganization plans regarding their respective departments.

In the evening, the President inducted into office Ramon Diokno and Roberto Concepcion as associate justices of the Supreme Court. Immediately afterwards, the President also inducted Querube Makalintal as solicitor general. The ceremony which was held at the Council of State room was attended by Cabinet members, justices of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals, senators, and friends and admirers of the appointees. In brief extemporaneous remarks after the oath-taking, the President said that with the appointment of two new justices of the Supreme Court, "we have strengthened the membership of the highest tribunal in the country." He exhorted the two justices to interpret the meaning of liberty, justice, and equality with more precision. If the small people, he said, did not get justice from the courts, they would resort to the use of the gun as the last recourse, and "that is dangerous for our country." Commenting on the appointment of Judge Makalintal as solicitor general, the President emphasized that the government needs an aggressive solicitor general to handle its cases.

February 10.—THE PRESIDENT left Malacañang at 6 a.m. and boarded the yacht *Pagasa* which was anchored near the Manila breakwater. Aboard the yacht, the President had breakfast with some guests. At 8 a.m., he motored to the Nichols Airbase where he boarded his plane *Pagasa* and took off for Lingayen, Pangasinan. There he addressed a meeting of Pangasinan mayors.

At 11 a.m., the President left Lingayen aboard his plane and headed for his native town, Castillejos, Zambales, where he lunched. The Cabinet meeting scheduled in the afternoon had to be cancelled because the President decided to spend the evening in Castillejos.

February 11.—UPON arriving at Malacañang at 10:10 a.m. from Zambales, the President retired to his private room for a brief rest. The President was visibly tired.

Shortly before 11:30 a.m., when the first meeting of the Council of State under the new administration was scheduled to start, the President got up and conferred with some of his assistants. He received former President Sergio Osmeña at his private room at 11:45 a.m. The two, followed by Palace aides, then proceeded to the Council of State room.

Before he called the Council of State meeting to order, the President inducted 24 members of the Council. The meeting started shortly after 12 noon. It lasted for two hours. Atty. Alfonso Ponce Enrile, a Council member, was absent owing to illness, while the president of the League of Governors and City Mayors, who will also sit on the Council, had not yet been elected.

The first decision taken by the Council of State was to give greater impetus to the improvement and expansion of the domestic operations of the Philippine Air Lines. The decision was reached on the strength of the following reasons: (1) speedier and efficient communications between the various islands comprising the country will accelerate economic development and progress; (2) opening of regular flight services to hitherto neglected areas will stimulate their rapid development; and (3) for purposes of national defenses. The Council agreed that hand in hand with the improvement of PAL's domestic operations, old airports will be expanded, improved, and modernized while new ones will be opened in places that will benefit from air transportation.

The President presented to the Council the problems of PAL's international operations. Chief of these problems, he said, was the need of mounting capital investments required to keep the PAL in competition with foreign airlines flying the international routes. For the PAL to keep its operations up to date, the President said, it had to acquire immediately four new DC-7 aircrafts, costing a total of P10 million, of which one-half had to be paid immediately as down payment and the other half- upon delivery of the planes. These amounts, he said, would have to be appropriated by Congress in the form of additional capital investments, or would have to be borrowed from private sources with the government guaranteeing the loan. The President added that the PAL had also to look forward to the jet age. He said to keep up with jet plane competition with other international airlines, the PAL would require

about P30 million in five to ten years, time. In the light of these facts, the President asked the Council to study how far the government should continue to support PAL's international operations. The problem evoked comments from various members of the Council, but in the end, the Council decided to withhold any decision on the matter until another meeting.

The second decision taken by the Council was to authorize the NARIC to undertake large-scale buying of palay. The President appointed a committee of three to determine a buying price for palay. Named were NARIC General Manager Juan O. Chioco, Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, and Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona. The President told the Council that the NARIC will be provided with sufficient funds to buy palay, in order to curtail the activities of middlemen and hoarders.

After the Council of State meeting, the President invited former President Sergio Osmeña to lunch with him in Malacañang. Others who lunched with them were Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta, Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro, and Economic Coordination Administrator Sotero Cabahug.

The President worked on pending papers after lunch, and, after a brief rest, motored to Obando, Bulacan, where he inaugurated the community plaza upon the invitation of the Obando Lions. Upon arrival in Obando, the President attended a *Te Deum* in his honor at the town church. He delivered a short speech at the plaza inauguration ceremony. Speaking extemporaneously in Tagalog, the President enjoined all public officials to serve the people faithfully and well. He said serving the people in the best possible manner is the best gift that public officials could give to the people. The President said that it was his great desire to serve the people and uplift the living conditions, especially of those in the rural areas, that prompted him to run for the Presidency. He told the people to consider him as their friend and to bring to him their problems and troubles. He said he would welcome them all and do his best to help them, without favoring any class. He emphasized that he did not run for office to make a fortune or to help his relatives enrich themselves. "My only desire," he said, "is to be able to help the people and uplift them from their miseries and sufferings."

The President returned to Malacañang late at night.

February 12.—THE PRESIDENT woke up early and went to the San Miguel Pro-Cathedral where he stood as sponsor at the baptism of the sons to Col. and Mrs. Santos and Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Barredo.

After the baptism, the President returned to Malacañang and had a breakfast conference with the House committee on health. The President received the full support of the group for the administration's rural health program. After the breakfast conference, the President conferred with Secretary of Health Paulino Garcia. The training of technical men to implement the administration's rural health program was discussed by the President with the members of the committee and with Secretary of Health Garcia. He told them that close coordination between the Executive Department and the committee was necessary for healthier rural communities.

In the morning, the President received several callers including a delegation from Cotabato composed of provincial officials and former MPM workers. They expressed their gratitude to the President for the road projects in their province and for the administration's interest in the drive against rats.

About noon, the President conferred with Col. Jaime Velasquez and other officials of the Bureau of Customs. The President was shown by Col. Velasquez a chart of the streamlined plan of reorganization of the Bureau of Customs. The President's fact-finding committee on the Bureau of Customs submitted a preliminary report to him today recommending among other things the immediate liquidation of accounts receivable computed at P2,500,000, with perhaps another P1 million still to be recorded. The Committee proposed the adoption of the immediate payment plan for the processing of import entries by not later than April 1 and the designation of a special team of accountants and auditors to liquidate the backlog of accounts receivable which have accumulated in the files for the past seven years.

Late in the afternoon, the President received former Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo, who paid his courtesy call immediately upon his arrival from the United States. General Romulo arrived at the airport at 5 p.m. At 5:35 p.m., he arrived at Malacañang, accompanied by Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Leon Ma. Guerrero. The President shook Romulo's hand and embraced him when the latter entered the presidential study. The President said, "I am very happy to see you back in the Philippines, Romy." Romulo replied, "I am very happy also to see you, Mr. President, after hearing and reading so much of the good start you have made in your administration." The General told the President that there was an emotional upsurge in the United States, an upsurge of great elation over the election of Mr. Magsaysay as President of the Philippines.

The members of the Philippine Contractors Association, who are holding their eighth annual convention, paid their respects to the President at Malacañang in the evening. The President told them that if they could form combines to construct low-cost houses for the common people, they would have achieved something great for the country. He said they should make their construction plans as economical as possible so that they could help the administration carry out its objective of bringing the benefits of better living to the poor. The President gave cocktails in honor of the officers and the members of the association.

The President intervened today to make possible the immediate burial of the remains of an accident victim whose interment had been held up for three weeks owing to the failure of the Workmen's Compensation Commission to rule on the destitute widow's claim for burial indemnity. Exhibiting once again his native quality of human compassion, the President undertook to defray the expenses for the burial of the deceased laborer, Biadlor Traqueña, pending settlement of his widow's claims for burial indemnity against the victim's alleged employer. However, Mariano del Rosario, proprietor of the Funeraria Quiogue, where Traqueña's remains have been lying, told a presidential aide that he was going to order the burial in deference to the President's request without charging the latter.

February 13.—THE PRESIDENT held a conference with congressional leaders for the purpose of laying the basis for the proposed general revamp of the entire government machinery to make it more responsive to the needs of the new administration. It was agreed during the conference that the projected reorganization of the government would be effected through close cooperation and coordination between the executive and the legislative departments. The guiding principle of the reorganization would be simplicity, economy, and efficiency. It was also agreed at the conference that pending the approval of the reorganization plan by Congress, the President would proceed to start the revamp of government offices within the powers granted him by existing laws. Present at the conference were Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr.; Senate Majority Floor Leader Cipriano Primicias; Senator Edmundo B. Cea, chairman of the Senate reorganization committee; Senator Jose P. Laurel; Rep. Apolinario Apacible, chairman of the House reorganization committee; Speaker Protempore Daniel Z. Romualdez; and Rep. Arturo Tolentino, House majority floor leader.

After the breakfast conference, the President received some 100 laborers from Magdalena, Laguna, who presented a complaint against their Chinese employer for non-payment vacation and sick leaves. The President ordered the Department of Labor to investigate the complaints of the Laguna laborers. He also received some sight-seers from Naic, Cavite.

About 10:30 a.m., the President conferred with Governor Federico B. Castillo of Mindoro Occidental, who called at Malacañang to extend the invitation of his province for the President to address a teachers' seminar in Lubang on February 18. The President said he could not accept the invitation owing to a previous engagement. He designated Governor Castillo to represent him in the confab and to convey his gratitude to the teachers for their cooperation in carrying out his policy designed to improve living conditions in outlying areas.

At 11:20 a.m., the President received some tenants from Hacienda Esperanza in Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija, who were following up their complaint against high irrigation fees being charged from them.

The President lunched aboard the yacht *Pagasa* with Executive Secretary Castro and former NBI Director Jose M. Crisol. In the afternoon, the Chief Executive formally opened the 1954 Philippine National Red Cross fund drive at a ceremony held at the Malacañang social hall. He contributed P1,000 to start the campaign, after delivering a brief

speech urging the people, to support the drive. He said: "Knowing the character of our people, knowing their readiness to extend a helping hand to their less fortunate brothers when the occasion demands, I know the response to this challenge will be spirited and adequate."

In the evening, the President paid a surprise visit to the Quezon Institute. He went to the hospital to visit one Lorenzo Garcia, a member of the Magsaysay-for-President-Movement, who contracted tuberculosis during the election campaign. At first the nurse on duty refused to admit the President and his aides, but when she recognized the Chief Executive, she apologized and led him to the ward where patient Garcia was. The President stayed in the Quezon Institute for 30 minutes during which he talked freely with the patients. Before the President left, he promised to send three cans of *bagoong* to the patients and milk rations through Social Welfare Administrator Pacita Madrigal Warns.

On the recommendation of Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, the President nominated in the evening Justice Jose B. L. Reyes to be the presiding justice of the Court of Appeals to replace Justice Pompeyo Diaz, who resigned.

February 14.—FROM breakfast to luncheon time, about 1 p.m., the President was in conference with Executive Secretary Castro aboard the yacht *Pagasa*, over pending state papers.

In the afternoon, the President warned against saboteurs who, he said, "may be Communist top is knowingly or unknowingly" or who may be working for ambitious individuals. He said "someone or a group of persons" was attempting to sabotage the administration by releasing incorrect information to the press and the radio and impersonating members of his official family. He said he had learned of cases where his name was used to obtain papers or information from government officials. In other cases, he said, the names of the executive secretary and of the PCAC head had been used without the knowledge of either office. There were instances, he said, when "twisted information based on half-truths" had been deliberately passed on to newspapers and radio stations apparently with the objective of trying to "undermine confidence" in some key men in the President's office.

As a result of his findings, the President gave specific instructions to all government officials to "double-check all orders, directives, instructions, and recommendations" purportedly coming from him or the key men in Malacañang when these involved important matters. He also appealed to radio stations and newspapers to check their facts and information with Malacañang for purposes of fairness and accuracy. He urged private entities also to double-checks with responsible Malacañang officials every time they received letters or telephoned requests using the names of persons close to the President.

At 6 p.m., the President left the yacht and motored to the JUSMAG compound in Quezon City, to attend the wedding of an old friend, Commander Lloyd G. Benson, U.S.N. The President returned to the yacht shortly before 9 o'clock in the evening for a dinner-conference with former Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo. The Chief Executive spent the night aboard the yacht.

February 15.—THE PRESIDENT woke up early and breakfasted with Executive Secretary Castro and his aides aboard the yacht. At 9 a.m., as the yacht pulled out of its moorings, the President asked Secretary Castro to bring out pending state papers. The two worked continuously on the papers until noon time. The yacht almost docked at Kitang Point in Bataan at 10:30 a.m. but the President ordered it to continue cruising in the bay. The ship returned to its moorings in Manila Bay at past 1 p.m.

At 2:30 p.m., the President debarked from the yacht and motored to Muntinlupa. The President's visit to the new Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa was so unexpected that even Prisons Director Alfredo Bunye was not around when the President arrived. Taken by surprise, the prison guards failed to salute the Chief Executive when he entered the gate. Immediately upon arrival, the President went around the prison compound and talked to prisoners, including, former Quezon Representative Narciso Umali. The President stayed for quite a long time at the prison's workshop where he talked with officials, trustees, and inmates. From the workshop, he went to the poultry and piggery. Before he left the compound, he inspected an artesian well which was constructed by the FOA-PHILCUSA. Just as he was boarding his car, the President was met by Prisons Director Bunye who had just returned from Manila, where he had conferred with NAFCO officials.

Upon arriving at Malacañang, the President inducted Valeriano Gatuslao as acting provincial governor of Negros Occidental, succeeding Leon C. Miraflores. The President told Gatuslao to go ahead in the performance of his duties firmly and courageously, even if the performance of what he thought was right might hurt the President himself.

In the afternoon, the President was kept busy with conferences. He conferred with NARIC officials headed by Juan O. Chioco, acting general manager and chairman of the board of directors of the corporation. The President also received Robert O. Swain, executive secretary of the International Road Federation, and P. J. Dayrit, executive secretary and legal counsel of the Philippine Better Roads Association.

Afterwards, the President directed Labor Undersecretary Pantaleon Pelayo to fly to Iloilo to look into labor trouble raging in Barator-Nuevo. He also directed Social Welfare Administrator Pacita Madrigal Warns to look into reports that several classes at the Welfare Institution had been suspended owing to lack of funds. He instructed Mrs. Warns to remedy the situation as soon as possible so that the schooling of the children would not be delayed.

February 16.— IN a conference with Manila Hotel company officials at Malacañang early in the morning, the President approved the minimum lease terms submitted to him by company officials. He gave the go-signal for the lease of the Manila Hotel to private operators. Invitations to bid would be issued on a world-wide basis but only to stable, experienced, and reputable hotel operators, it was announced.

Following the conference, the President closeted himself with army top brass who called to report on the progress of negotiations for the surrender of dissidents. After a three-hour conference with the army men, the President announced that the Huks had been given until February 22 within which to accept the government term for their surrender. He added, however, that he had authorized the armed forces to resume military operations against the Huks earlier than the deadline if they should find that the dissidents were taking advantage of the interim period to improve their situation.

Shortly before noon, the President proceeded to receive other callers at his private study. The callers were mostly solons, governors and mayors who came to consult him on problems of their respective localities. Laguna Governor Dominador Chipeco called to ask the President's help for the construction of a seawall along Laguna Bay to protect thousands of hectares of rice lands. Nueva Ecija Rep. Celestino Juan sought financial help for the construction of a bridge in Cabiao, while Gov. Leon Fernandez of Sulu reported to the President that since he assumed office a month ago, 460 loose firearms have been surrendered to him. Mayor Conrado Estrella of Rosales, Pangasinan, informed the President of what had been accomplished in the recent conference of town mayors in Pangasinan. Rep. Felix Fuentebella of Camarines Sur called to show the "cheapest way" to exterminate rats. Senators Lorenzo M. Tañada and Justiniano S. Montano were among the other callers.

In the afternoon, the President conferred with Lions District Governor Mariano V. del Rosario in Malacañang on the effective distribution of the hundreds of farm implements donated by the California and the Nevada Lions Clubs to aid rural areas in the Philippines. The President, upon learning that these farm aids were being readied for shipment to the Philippines on March 1, felt very happy that what he began working for two years ago would soon be realized. The Lions Clubs of California and Nevada promised the then Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay, when he spoke before the Lions International Convention in Mexico City two years ago, that they would heed his appeal for the rehabilitation of rural communities in the Philippines and for the settlement of repentant Huks. The President had called Del Rosario to Malacañang to urge him and his organization to cooperate in effecting the best possible method of distributing the expected farm implements.

The President in the afternoon, called to a conference the NARIC board of directors and some department secretaries to discuss the current problems facing the NARIC. He told the NARIC board of directors to continue the purchase of palay and to exert all efforts in further lowering the price of rice to bring it within the easier reach of the law-income levels. Steps were taken to provide the NARIC with funds to accomplish its mission. Problems concerning the administration and the personnel of the corporation were discussed and ironed out.

From the Council of State room, the President went to the Cabinet room where the staff of the Malacañang executive office was holding its weekly work-conference. Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro informed the

President that the staff was also doing its “home work”. He introduced some members of the staff to the President. The Chief Executive expressed gratification on seeing his staff diligently at work even past office hours.

In the evening, the President received Ambassador Jose E. Romero, who paid his respects immediately upon his arrival from London. In the course of the 15-minute call, Ambassador Romero told the President that President Magsaysay’s election has created world-wide interest. He said that diplomats with whom he had talked in London, especially those from South American countries, remarked: “President Magsaysay’s election has been an inspiration and has served as a good example to South American countries and other countries in Asia.” He said London diplomats were impressed by our last election results, saying, “the Filipinos have achieved political maturity.” The President congratulated Romero for doing a good job in his post.

The President granted this day three conditional pardons and one absolute pardon to four prisoners serving their terms at Muntinlupa. The pardons were granted upon recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole. The President also issued Executive Order No. 14, re-merging the municipality of Victoria with the municipality of Allen in Samar, and Executive Order No. 13, creating the municipality of Pagudpud in Ilocos Norte.

Moreover, the President certified to Court of Industrial Relations the labor dispute between the members of the Interisland Labor Organization and the Philippines, Labor Union on one hand, and the Central Santos Lopez Co., Inc., on the other. The President requested the Court to take immediate and appropriate steps in the exercise of its power granted by the law on the case.

Malacañang announced this day that the President had confirmed a recommendation of the board of foreign service for the suspension of Enrique N. Garcia, second secretary and consul of the Philippine Legation in London, for leaving his post without proper authorization from the Department of Foreign Affairs. Garcia will not receive his salary for the period of his unauthorized absence and will also shoulder the transportation expense incurred in his coming to the Philippines and returning to London. He was warned that a repetition of the offense will be dealt with more severely.

February 17.— THE PRESIDENT ate his breakfast at 6:30 a.m. aboard the yacht *Pagasa*. Shortly after breakfast, at 7:30 a.m., he left the yacht and motored to San Rafael, a barrio of Noveleta, Cavite. Alighting from his car, the President talked with the barrio folks and inquired about their living conditions. He asked about their water supply and then inspected the available artesian wells in the area. He visited the outskirts of the barrio and talked further with the people. Seeing the prospects of the barrio as a *tilapia* breeding center, the President asked them to establish small fishponds and cultivate *tilapia*, the “wonder fish” that has hit the country since last year.

Leaving San Rafael at 8:05 a.m., the President motored to Canlubang in another surprise visit. There he attended the monthly officers’ meeting of the 2nd Military Area at Camp Vicente Lim. He said he had gone to Laguna to check for himself reports that the Huks had violated the ceasefire area by capturing two towns in Quezon province and raising the communist emblem. The alleged violation “cannot be proven,” he said. The President arrived at Camp Vicente Lim before noon and immediately plunged into a briefing session with 2nd MA staff officers and military commanders of the zone who were then holding their regular monthly conference. Present at the briefing were Maj. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff, and Brig. Gen. Eulogio Balao, AFP vice chief of staff.

After the briefing, the President left the camp and visited the 3rd Station Hospital in Camp Eldridge. He went through the hospital pavilions, talking to the patients. He also inspected the hot sulphur springs in the hospital compound where paralytic patients are treated. From the hospital, the President motored to the U. P. College of Agriculture in Los Baños. He talked with Dean Francisco Fronda of the college and inquired about the conditions of the college.

About 1 p.m., the President returned to Camp Vicente Lim where he had lunch with the 2nd MA officers. After resting for a while, about 4:55 p.m., the President and his aides took off in eight piper cubs (L-5’s planes), arriving at the Nichols Airbase at 5:30 p.m. The President motored directly to Malacañang.

Immediately upon his return to Malacañang from Canlubang, the President issued a statement saying that the cease-fire zone in Quezon province established since the start of the talks with Huks Supremo Casto Alejandrino about a month ago “will remain inviolate until the 22nd of February.” The government deadline will be maintained, the President said, “so that the HMB may have an opportunity to comply with the terms of peace which the government gave them.” He added: “I realize that peace negotiation with no will to peace is a standard weapon of the Communists. I will not permit this weapon to be used against us. At the same time, there are many in the ranks of the HMB who are not Communists but have been deceived by the glittering promise of land and social justice. We must give these people a chance again to become useful citizens. To them, we cannot close the road to peace and the rehabilitation which this new administration is seeking to bring to this country.”

February 18.—IN the course of his breakfast conference with LASEDECO officials on board the yacht *Pagasa* early in the morning the President ordered the LASEDECO to prosecute to the full extent of the law all delinquent debtors of the government-owned corporation. The officials reported that according to the books of the corporation, the accounts receivable from individuals and corporations amounted to P10 million representing sales and leases of farm machinery. The debtors included some prominent politicians, according to the report. The officials also informed the President that several cases had already been filed in court against the delinquent debtors. It was agreed during the conference that the names of delinquent debtors would be publicized in the press after proper warnings. If despite repeated warnings the debtors still fail to pay their obligations, proper action would be filed against them in court. The conference which lasted from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. took up problems of land settlement, particularly the financing of projects to be opened shortly like the Malaya project in Akle, Bulacan, and that in Malampaya, Palawan.

After the breakfast huddle, the President motored to Nueva Ecija to see for himself the “real causes” of the landlord-tenant disputes. The President first stopped in Gapan and looked for Mayor Jose Cabatuando. The Gapan mayor had complained to die PC AC that he could not see the President in Malacañang. Then the President proceeded to Talavera, where he was joined by Brig. Gen. Alfonso Arellano and other army brass. After having his lunch at the home of Deogracias Vicente, the President motored to Muñoz, where he met CIR commissioners and groups of tenants. He left Muñoz at 5 p.m. for Cuyapo, where he conferred with town officials and tenants. In Cuyapo, the President received favorable reaction to his order banning the slaughter of carabaos. He was informed that because of the ban, carabao rustling had stopped and the farmers had been able to cultivate their lands.

The President found during his surprise visit in Nueva Ecija towns that most of the current disputes between landlords and tenants were due to inadequate implementation of the existing tenancy laws. The President said he will confer shortly with Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason and Labor Undersecretary Pantaleon Pelayo with a view to reorganizing the Court of Industrial Relations and making it more responsive to tenants’ needs. He said a bill will soon be drafted providing for a revamp of the CIR. According to him, while the bill reorganizing the CIR is being readied, he will assign one or two CIR judges to Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, and Pampanga. These judges will even hold night sessions and “on-the-spot” trials where tenancy troubles are serious.

Late in the afternoon, the President proceeded to Pangasinan and thence to Baguio where he passed the night.

February 19.—WAKING up at 6 a.m., the President went around the garden of the Mansion House before eating his breakfast. Later he received Mayor Alfonso Tabora who conferred with him on final arrangements for the improvement of Baguio’s water system. The President kept to himself the whole day, studying papers which he had brought with him.

In Baguio the President announced the creation of the commission to study ways and means of helping the gold mining industry. The commission will be headed by Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta as chairman and will have as members Judge John W. Haussermann, Charles B. Foster, Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, Sr., Ex-Deputy Central Bank Governor Alfonso Calalang, Sixto Orosa, Director of Mines Demetrio Andres, Servillano Aquino, Antonio D. Garcia, and Labor Leader Luis Lardizabal.

The Cabinet ruled on the automatic retirement of employees reaching the age of 65 years. It was decided that all employees over 65 who had been retained by the previous administration and those who had reached 65 on January

1, 1954, be considered automatically retired according to law. It was further decided that if a 65-year-old employee who has special qualifications is proposed to be retained, the secretary of the department under which he is employed should recommend to the President his retention one month before he reaches 65.

Vicente Araneta, acting administrator of the Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Financing Administration (ACCFA), and Juan O. Chioco, acting chairman and general manager of the NARIC, were requested to be present during the Cabinet meeting to give their views with respect to the rice problem. After listening to the explanations of Araneta and Chioco, the Cabinet decided to form a committee to study the ways of coordinating the work of the ACCFA and the NARIC in tackling the rice problem. The committee is composed of Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, chairman, and Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta and Economic Coordination Administrator Sotero Cabahug, members. The Cabinet meeting was presided by Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia in the absence of President Magsaysay who was in Baguio.

In view of the President's reception for Congress the next day, the regular Saturday open house in Malacañang was moved forward to this day, starting at 3 p.m. as usual.

In order to portray graphically the program of the President for the uplift of the standard of living of the masses in the rural areas, Malacañang Engineer Miguel Y. Garcia designed and built a miniature community on the lawn near the social hall at Malacañang. This will be the focal point of interest at the formal reception that the President will give the next day at Malacañang in honor of the members of Congress. The miniature community, complete with roads, bridges, houses enclosed by fences, and other community facilities like church, school, fish ponds, farms, artesian wells, irrigation system, etc., have been etched on the Malacañang green. The model barrio, which occupies an area of about 10 square meters, is named *Pagasa*.

February 20.—AT the resthouse in Poro Point, the President held a breakfast conference with Philippine Navy top brass. He also received La Union provincial officials headed by Governor Juan Carbonel.

After breakfast, the President inspected the government cement factory in Bacnotan, La Union, Enroute to Bacnotan, he stopped at the tobacco plantation of a Siamese whom he at first mistook for an Ilocano. Impressed by the way the Siamese (who is married to an Ilocana) cultivated his tobacco farm, the President invited him to visit Malacañang and give him suggestion on how to cultivate tobacco.

About 11:30 a.m., the President took off from San Fernando, La Union, aboard the plane *Pagasa* and flew down to Basa Airbase where he had his lunch. At 3:30 p.m., he took off from the Basa Airbase in an L-5 plane and flew over San Luis for about 15 minutes before putting down at 4:25.

The President expressed great satisfaction over the progress of the resettlement program being carried out under "Operation Katubusan" in San Luis. Col. Manuel Cabal, 1st MA commander, reported to the President that the reclamation work had been progressing satisfactorily in the barrios of Sta. Monica, San Agustin, San Juan, Pambilog, San Sebastian, and San Isidro, all barrios of San Luis east of the Pampanga River. He said that 2,400 hectares had already been cleared, 36 families had already established their homes, and 59 houses had already been built. The President praised Brig. Gen. Alfonso Arellano, Col. Manuel Cabal, and the army engineers and trainees belonging to the Light Maintenance Company, for a "splendid work" in the area. He especially mentioned the construction of a new road one meter high, and already one and a half kilometers long. He was informed that the remaining 3 ½ kilometers of this road would soon be finished.

The President arrived at the Nichols Airbase at 5:20 p.m. and returned to Malacañang about 6:45. Shortly after his arrival, he issued a statement calling upon "those who have been misguided to compare the futility of their situation with the reality of our land-for-the-landless program." He said the Huks had until midnight of February 22 within which to accept the government's offer of a just peace and a chance at a new life." Otherwise, they will have to meet the full force and power of our arms," the President said. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 559-560, for the full text of the President's statement.)

In the evening, President and Mrs. Ramon Magsaysay gave a reception and ball at the Palace in honor of the members of Congress. The affair was featured by the traditional *rigodon de honor* participated in by high ranking officials of the Republic and the foreign diplomatic corps. It was attended by members of Congress, members of foreign diplomatic corps, justices of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals, and Cabinet Members.

February 21.—THE President heard an early mass with his family at the Malacañang chapel, after which he boarded his yacht *Pagasa* docked at Pier 5. When he arrived at the yacht, the President was greeted by editors of four Manila newspapers—who had been invited by him to a breakfast conference. After the conference which lasted for one and a half hours, the President left the yacht for some engagement.

The President had as luncheon guest aboard the yacht Leon O. Ty of the *Philippines Free Press*.

Through the Malacañang Press Office, the President in the evening issued another statement regarding the negotiations with certain dissident groups that had indicated a desire to surrender. He said that in authorizing the negotiations, he had been motivated by the desire to explore every possibility of restoring peace and order and of securing complete unity among our people in the shortest possible time. Our approach to this problem, the President pointed out, “must be broadly humanitarian but it must not. compromise the sovereign authority of the Republic or gamble with national security.” (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, p. 560, for the full text of the President’s statement.)

The President also directed Manuel D. Sumulong, director of the Bureau of Animal Industry, to intensify the campaign against the foot-and-mouth epidemic among cloven-footed animals, mostly carabaos. The President was informed that although the epidemic was not serious, some 15,617 work carabaos in Bulacan, Pampanga, and Cavite have been infected with the disease. If the spread of the disease is not checked, the carabaos will be useless for work in the farms, thus resulting in partial paralyzation of agriculture production. As the disease also affects cattle, goats, and sheep, the diseased animals cannot produce milk for daily consumption.

February 22.—THE President held a two-hour breakfast conference with members of the Philippines National Bank board of directors. He told the PNB officials that he was giving them “complete and absolute discretion on the election of a permanent PNB president.” He said this was in line with his policy of giving the government corporations full powers to conduct their own business. He said that under his administration, the boards of directors of government entities will exercise the full authority necessary for them to discharge their responsibilities efficiently and well. The President invited the PNB board members to Malacañang to discuss with them various problems confronting the institution, particularly the indebtedness of government corporations.

After the conference which lasted until 10 a.m., the President received several callers including officials of the Philippine Tuberculosis Society. They called to inform the President that he had been elected honorary president of the association. The PTS officials included Maj. Gen. Basilio Valdez, vice president of the society; Dr. Pedro S. Lopez, executive secretary of the society; and Drs. Antonio Sison and Miguel Cañizares.

At 11:15 a.m., the President proceeded to his study where he received FOA officials headed by Director Harold E. Stassen. The FOA Director assured the President that the American government stands ready to extend further economic assistance to the Philippine government in its current campaign to rid the country of communist elements. Stassen told President Magsaysay: “We have watched with interest your efforts to eradicate dissidence in your country and we are seeking ways by which we could cooperate more fully with you.” He added: “You have made considerable progress in less than two months of your administration.” During the one-hour conference, the President enumerated in general terms the economic problems confronting the country and outlined various programs of his administration aimed at solving these problems. Among others the President informed the American official of his land settlement program designed to provide lands for the landless which, according to him, was the root of the local Huk problem. He also revealed that the conservation of work animals for the farms was one of his foremost problems.

After the conference, the President led Director Stassen and his party to the music room for cocktails. At 12:30 p.m., the President entertained the FOA officials with a luncheon. Stassen was accompanied to Malacañang by American

Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance; Harry Brenn; chief of the FOA mission in Manila; Gov. Ford Q. Elridge of Guam; and high ranking FOA officials. The luncheon lasted until 3 p.m.

In the afternoon, more callers came to Malacañang to see the President. General Carlos P. Romulo conferred with the President in the evening and turned down the Chief Executive's offer of appointment as ambassador to the United States. Because of this conference, the President missed the train at 6:30 p.m. at the Sta. Mesa station which was to take him to Clark Field. He instead took the plane at 8 p.m. to be in time for George Washington Day celebration in the American air force base in Pampanga.

Speaking as guest of honor at the Clark Field celebration, the President backed up the evolving of a pro-Asian policy by his foreign policy spokesmen but frowned upon the use of slogans in expressing it. "One danger in expressing a policy through a slogan is that it is so easy to distort a phrase," he said. The President was referring to the "Asia for the Asians" slogan which was used by his foreign policy spokesmen in expressing the policy of the new administration. This slogan recently sparked controversy locally. The President hailed the discussion being carried on regarding his administration's policies. Such discussion is wholesome and healthy in a democracy, he said. He observed, however, that there has come out of that discussion an effort to express policies in slogans.

"From the past administration," the President said, "we know that you cannot govern—you cannot achieve progress—by slogans. We must not try to fit the many and changing needs of the national welfare into the strait-jacket of a slogan," he said. He pointed to the danger of slogans being distorted. "Already," he said, "the slogan of Asia for the Asians' is being trumpeted over Radio Peiping and by Communist propaganda channels elsewhere as a cry of hostility of our people towards the American people. This is a lie," he asserted. He added that he saw nothing incompatible between friendship and sympathy for Asian neighbors and the continuation of especially warm relationship with the United States. "There is no conflict of principles, ideals, or methods between the concepts," he pointed out. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 561-562, for the complete text of the President's speech.)

The President held out the prospect of decent housing for Manila policemen and their families when he announced this day a plan to move them to PHILCUSA-FOA housing project in Pandacan due to be completed in June. The President was moved to take up the case of the city policemen in view of reports that many city cops and their families were ill-housed, a situation which according to him could not be expected to contribute to the efficiency and devotion to duty of these law enforcement agents. The Pandacan housing project consists of 17 three-story apartment buildings or a total of 480 apartments. If this site will not accommodate the entire police force and their families, the President said he was considering ordering the PHHC to undertake the immediate construction of another five-story apartment building at Plaza Militar for those who may not be placed in the Pandacan site. The President said he was contemplating to invite officials of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation, FOA Director Harry Brenn, and Manila officials concerned to a conference soon to discuss details of the project.

February 23.—AT a breakfast conference with members of the House committee on appropriations, the President agreed in principle to some cuts in the P668-million budget proposed for the next fiscal year provided essential government services are not impaired and the barrio improvement program and other election commitment of the administration are not hampered. The congressmen agreed to extend all cooperation to the President to enable him to carry out his program of government. The conference, which was held in Malacañang from 8 to 9:30 a.m., was attended by both Nacionalista and Liberal Party members of the committee. In previous administrations, only committee members belonging to the majority party were invited to such conferences on the budgetary proposals of the Chief Executive. The President placed the ship *Pagasa* at the disposal of House leaders and members of the committee in connection with its annual closed-door executive sessions on the budget.

As usual the President was swamped with delegations the whole day. After the conference with the members of the House appropriations committee, the President conferred with Juan E. Edano, president of the Market Vendors Association. The President promised Edano to give the MVA assistance so that the meat vendors could easily import beef for the local market. He also said the government would provide the meat, vendors with storage places. Other callers on the President in the morning were Rep. Domocao Alonto of Lanao and Rep. Luminog Mangelen of Cotabato, who reported on the rat situation in their provinces. La Union Gov. Juan Carbonell. Rep. Francisco Ortega, and Mayor Lorenzo Dacanay of San Fernando also called on the President with members of the La Union Virginia Tobacco Planters Association. The Chief Executive urged the large-scale production of Virginia tobacco to

meet demands in his conference with the tobacco planters. He told them that the government will provide the farmers with tractors and other agricultural implements. The President's order for large-scale production of Virginia tobacco was the result of his trip to Bacnotan, La Union, two days ago where he was impressed by the way Virginia tobacco was cultivated there. Leyte Gov. Bernardo Torres also called to deny the report that he and Mayor Ildefonso Cinco of Tacloban City "had defended the ban on the slaughter of carabaos upon instruction of Malacañang." He said he had voluntarily defended the ban because he believed it necessary. According to Torres, the ban had succeeded in lowering the price of work animals to a level within the reach of the farmers.

At noon, the President had a luncheon conference with the House special amnesty committee. In the conference, the solons agreed on a policy of throwing the government's full force against the die-hard Communist Huks who failed to surrender within the surrender deadline, at midnight of February 22. At the same time, the conference decided to intensify the administration's barrio improvement program to expose the emptiness of the Red propaganda line and to keep the door open to individual surrenders by Huk rank-and-filers, retaining the condition that those facing charges must stand trial, after which they may appeal to the government's sense of mercy. Those without criminal records will be given, an opportunity at a new and productive life upon showing sincere repentance. The conference decision was a re-affirmation and renewed endorsement of the President's all-out force and all-out friendship policy.

In view of the urgency indicated by press reports this day of activities of the U. S. Congress in connection with Philippine affairs, the President appointed General Carlos P. Romulo as "special and personal representative of the President," holding the personal rank of ambassador. The assignment carries no salary. The appointment entails assignment to specific missions having to do with matters currently under negotiation between the governments of the Philippines and the United States. Among these are the Philippine Trade Act of 1946 and the Rogers Act, which concerns veterans' benefits. In his letter of instructions, the President said that he assumed General Romulo's willingness to undertake these special duties as a civic responsibility. In declining appointment to any position in the regular government service, General Romulo referred to his public commitment not to seek or accept public office.

The President approved the application for leave of absence filed by General Manager Eduardo Taylor of the Cebu Portland Cement Company pending the result of an investigation of charges presented against the latter in connection with his official duties. Taylor himself requested that he be given leave in a letter addressed to the President which pressed his desire "that the investigation may take full course in my absence from office for the satisfaction of any interested party or parties who may feel that my presence can unduly influence the result of the investigation."

The President left Malacañang at 5 p.m. for an undisclosed destination presumably to rest in compliance with his doctor's advice. He was urged by his personal physician to take a much-needed rest owing to a sore throat which has been bothering him for some time. He left aboard the yacht *Pagasa*, accompanied only by his aides, Maj. Emilio Borromeo and Capt. Jose Estrella.

February 24.—THE President who slipped quietly from Manila for an undisclosed place was finally located late in the morning on the coast of Zambales. According to a dispatch received at Malacañang, the President was suffering from a slight fever due to throat infection.

Late in the afternoon, the President landed in his native town, Castillejos, Zambales. From Castillejos he issued a statement charging the Huk leaders with insincerity and blaming them for the failure of the surrender negotiations. He said: "It is now conclusively evident that negotiation with the communists leading the HMB is useless." The President slammed the door against future negotiations with the Huks although, he said, the government will continue to receive dissidents who wish to return to peaceful life.

The President this day also acted to put to a stop the strike declared by the Philippine Marine Radio Officers Association which threatened to paralyze the entire coastwise shipping trade in the country. In a communication dispatched in the morning to the presiding judge of the Court of Industrial Relations, the President certified to the existence of the strike affecting an industry indispensable to the national interest. He requested the CIR to bring about the immediate settlement of the labor dispute. Under section 10 of Republic Act No. 875, otherwise known as the Industrial Peace Act, when such labor dispute is certified to by the President, the CIR "may cause to be issued a

restraining order forbidding the employees to strike or the employer to lockout the employee and, if no other solution to the dispute is found, the court may issue an order fixing the terms and conditions of employment.” Labor Undersecretary Pantaleon Pelayo recommended the certification of the labor dispute to the CIR after attempts to settle the dispute by his department had proved of no avail.

As the President was absent, Vice President Carlos P. Garcia presided over the regular meeting of the Cabinet in the afternoon. The Cabinet recommended the issuance of a presidential proclamation declaring “a state of calamity” in rat infested Cotabato. It likewise decided that, if the proclamation is finally issued by the President, Social Welfare Administrator Pacita Madrigal Warns be authorized to make representations with James McCall, officer of the UNICEF Philippine Mission, for the allocation here of 2,200,000 pounds of powdered milk for distribution among mothers and children in Cotabato. The Cabinet also approved certain rules governing enforcement of salary raises. Among others, it decided that a government employee may not be promoted by more than two grades in salary when in the same position and when performing the same duties and assuming the same responsibilities. No employee may be promoted by more than four grades even if he is transferred from one position to another, it was also learned.

During the Cabinet meeting, a committee was created to study and make recommendations on the problems arising from the proposed standardization of salaries of employees of the Philippine Council for U. S. Aid (PHILCUSA). The committee is composed of Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, chairman, and Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona and Civil Service Commissioner Jose Gil, members.

February 25.—FROM Castillejos where he was having a few day’s rest owing to slight fever caused by a throat infection, the President took time out to issue instructions to Dr. Wllfredo de Leon, chief pathologist of the Department of Health, for the latter to fly to South Africa and study a mysterious plague that has been killing rats in large number there. The President wanted De Leon to exploit the plague in killing the rats in Cotabato. According to a report published some days ago in a local afternoon paper, rats were dying in the Springbok Flat in South Africa in large numbers.

In answer to the President’s summons, Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro enplaned at noon for Castillejos carrying with him a maleta-full of pending state papers for the President to act on. Secretary Castro returned in the afternoon with the news that he had found the President not exactly sick but just indisposed.” He said the President was still suffering from slight fever and hoarseness due to sore throat that turned out to be an incipient, tonsillitis.

February 26.—DISPATCHES received at Malacañang said that the President had greatly improved—his slight fever was gone, although there was still a little hoarseness in his voice. He motored to Baguio in the morning from Castillejos, Zambales.

Meanwhile, Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro received on behalf of the President an Arbor Day gift to the Philippines from the people of Oregon sent by Oregon State Governor Paul Patterson through James M. Clinton, former director of the Oregon Civil Service. The gift, a bundle containing 60 Port Cedar seedlings and 60 Ponderosa seedlings, was presented to Secretary Castro by Mr. Clinton in the morning. Attached to the bundle was a letter from Oregon’s State Forester George Spaur, giving instructions on how to plant and care for the trees.

In the evening, one Arturo Guerrero, who claimed to be a Huk instructor of “Dialectics of Capitalism” in a Huk school, surrendered to Assistant Executive Secretary Jose Samson at Malacañang. The 30-year-old Huk said that he and most of his comrades whose morale have been low since President Magsaysay took over the presidency, were contemplating to surrender weeks ago. Guerrero made surrender arrangements through his former comrades who had already yielded. He was accompanied to Malacañang by Ernesto Capinpin, an agent of the Department of National Defense. Secretary Samson turned Guerrero over to army authorities in Camp Murphy.

February 27.—THE PRESIDENT was confined in his room in the Guest House in Baguio the whole day. However, he found time to work on pending state papers which had been flown to the Pines City in the morning by Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro.

While the PAL plane *Legaspi* carrying General and Mrs. Carlos P. Romulo was in flight to Guam, the President and Romulo exchange radio messages. Said Romulo to the President: "I appreciate your confidence in me and I pledge my utmost for the welfare of the country." The President answered: "Thanks for your message. I deeply appreciate your reassurances. The success of your mission will greatly influence the future of our country and people. With your dedication you cannot fail. Best of luck to you and Mrs. Romulo."

In keeping with his policy of maintaining efficiency among government personnel in the performance of their duties, the President suspended Municipal Judge Edmundo S. Pinga of Zamboanga City for a period of six months, upon the recommendation of Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason. Pinga was found guilty of gross ignorance of the law and negligence in the performance of his official duties.

Late in the afternoon, the President signed one absolute pardon, one special conditional pardon, and 13 conditional pardons, as recommended by the Board of Pardons and Parole. The President also created a committee on programming and planning of highway projects. The committee is composed of Public Works Undersecretary Vicente Orosa, chairman, and Senator Gil J. Puyat, Rep. Florencio Moreno, Col. Harry Brenn, Public Works Director Isaias Fernando, Col. Antonio Chanco, A. C. Taylor, and Rodolfo Maslog, members.

February 28.—PREVAILED upon by his physicians to continue resting in Baguio "to prevent a relapse and insure his complete recovery," the President contacted Acting Internal Revenue Collector J. Antonio Araneta and told the latter to read for him a speech he was to deliver at the La Salle College alumni homecoming, which took place at noon today. In his speech read by Internal Revenue Collector Araneta, the President told the La Salle alumni that his trips to the provinces, were being undertaken with a definite purpose" in mind—"to set a pace, to overcome inertia, to set little fires of enthusiasm and initiative where they are needed most if our program is to move with, the speed it should." Reporting on the first two months of his administration, the President said "progress has been made even at this early date" although his full-scale program needs "much preparatory work before it can be implemented efficiently." (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 562-564, for the full text of the President's speech.)

The President also wired his felicitations to Lieutenant General Joseph M. Swing in San Francisco on the latter's retirement from the U. S. Army and celebration of his 60th birthday. General Swing was the commanding general of the 11th Airborne Division, which participated in the liberation of the Philippines from the Japanese in 1944. In his message to General Swing, the President said that the Filipino people joined him in extending "our sincere felicitations," pointing out that the General was "retiring with a brilliant record of service and with the admiration of my people for all the good things you have done in their behalf."

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Month in Review: March, 1954

OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

March 1.—STILL looking pale, the President returned to Manila from Baguio at noon. He said he had recuperated from, a throat infection although he still complained of fatigue. As the President did not receive any visitors in the Mansion House, no one was able to see him in Baguio before he took off in his plane *Pagasa* for Manila. The President was accompanied in the same plane by Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro and the President's aides, Maj. Emilio Borromeo and Capt. Jose Estrella.

In the afternoon, the President saw callers including Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta and Fisheries Director Deogracias Villadolid. He told Araneta to direct the anti-rat campaign in Cotabato, and ordered Villadolid to proceed with the *tilapia* development throughout the country.

Then the President went to the Council of State room where he signed the anti-rat bill which sets aside P2 million for the rat extermination campaign. It was the first bill passed in the current session of Congress and the first signed into law by the President.

Having signed the anti-rat bill, the President received Gov. Alejo Santos of Bulacan, who reported on the progress of the campaign against the foot-and-mouth disease affecting carabaos in Bulacan. Gov. Santos informed the President that with the aid of the Bureau of Animal Industry satisfactory progress was being made in the campaign against the disease, but added that more funds were needed to bring the campaign to a successful conclusion.

Included among the callers at Malacañang in the afternoon were municipal officials from the Visayas who discussed with the President the need for waterworks and artesian wells in their respective districts. The delegation of Visayan officials was accompanied by Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez.

The President invited the top party leaders to a breakfast conference at Malacañang on March 4 to define clearly the substance and language of the administration's foreign policy and to discuss the instructions for Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo as the President's personal representative to Washington. The President said in the evening that Ambassador Romulo's mission in the United States as personal representative of the Chief Executive will be subject to the control of Nacionalista Party leaders. This statement was made to correct prevalent impression that Romulo is responsible only to the President.

That there was an apparent and deliberate "attempt to confuse and sabotage the Huk surrender talks" was admitted by the President in the evening after he had announced that he had ordered the probe of the source of a false news item two weeks ago reporting that Huks had seized two towns in Quezon province. This news item, the President said, created confusion in the surrender talks and almost provoked resumption of hostilities in the cease-fire area ahead of the deadline, owing to the armed forces' belief that the zone had been violated. He said that he himself had to go to Laguna to investigate personally the veracity of the report. The President announced that he had directed Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff, to conduct a full dress investigation of the source of the false news item alleging that the Huks had seized two towns in Quezon province, with the view to determining the court martial liability of any military personnel who might have been responsible for its publication.

The President turned down Huk Supremo Luis Taruc's plea for the re opening of negotiations to solve the dissident problem. The Government will not budge an inch from the terms it has set for the Huks, the President said in an informal chat with newsmen covering Malacañang, who dined with him. Taruc's plea for renewal of negotiations was contained in a letter to Congress, written in long hand and in Tagalog, which was transmitted to the President in the evening by Rep. Emilio Cortez of Pampanga, Taruc's *compadre*. Cortez said in submitting the letter to the President that he was willing to act as liaison between the Chief Executive and Taruc. The President told Cortez that, if the Huks really wanted peace they must come out of their hiding places and lay down their arms, stand trial, and settle down to quiet living. But the present operations against the dissidents will not be called off; no cease-fire order will be issued to pave the way for any negotiations, the President stressed.

March 2.—THE PRESIDENT held a breakfast conference with two officials of the Philippine Air Lines, Col. Andres Soriano and Bernard Anderson, on the proposed, suspension of the international flights of the PAL. The two PAL officials presented the President with alternative propositions. The nature of the” propositions was not disclosed, but the Chief Executive said he would study them thoroughly. He said he would convene the Council of State shortly to discuss the matter anew and arrive at a decision.

After the breakfast conference, the President had an hour’s conference with Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance on “matters of interest to the Philippines and the United States.”

Shortly after 10 a.m., the President received several callers composed mostly of provincial and municipal executives who consulted him on problems of their respective localities. The President also had separate conference with Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona and ACCFA Administrator Vicente Araneta on matters pertaining to their respective offices.

The President had a luncheon at noon with Manila Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson in Malacañang. It was the first meeting between the two since the start of their differences arising from Lacson’s criticism of the President’s order banning the slaughter of carabaos for a period of one year. The luncheon engagement with the President was asked by Lacson to sound off the Chief Executive on the overall development plans for Manila. Jesus Marcos Rocas, secretary to the Mayor and one of those present at the conference, said the meeting was characterized by back-slapping, exchange of jokes, and reminiscences on the “good old days.” The President was also quoted as having told Lacson: “How can we ever fight when we share the same convictions and fight for the same principles?”

In the afternoon, a delegation from Gandara, Samar, called on the President to ask his help in building artesian wells in their town which, in spite of its thick population had only one artesian well. The Samar group told the President that the people in that locality were suffering from enlarged bellies caused by snail fever, because they have been getting their drinking water from the river.

The President maintained the government’s stand on Huk surrender overtures in his second meeting in two days with Rep. Emilio Cortez in the evening. The President insisted that the dissidents must accept the government terms for surrender first outlined in the talks with Alejandrino. He handed to Cortez a typewritten sheet containing the government’s stand and terms for the surrender of the Huks. Signed by Col. Osmundo Mondoñedo, the letter contained terms identical with those previously submitted to Casto Alejandrino in Mt. Banahaw. The President made it clear that there would be no cease-fire and no further negotiations on surrender; that the government would not entertain any further moves from Taruc or any Huk leader short of acceptance of the demands. Cortez, fully agreeing that the terms were just and fair, appended a postscript to the one-page sheet on which the terms were typewritten, saying “Please accept these terms if you are sincere,” and then signed his name underneath. Gen. Vargas and Col. Mondoñedo were present during the conference.

At 6 p.m., the President rode in his car for an airing along Dewey Boulevard. He was accompanied by his aides.

In the evening, about seven o’clock, the President and Mrs. Magsaysay boarded the yacht *Pagasa* and sailed for Sangley Point, Cavite, to attend a formal reception given in their honor by Admiral and Mrs. Richard Cruzen.

March 3.—THE PRESIDENT began the day with a long breakfast conference with the board of directors of the Philippine National Bank. He discussed with the board ways and means of extending the operations and benefits of the PNB to rural areas. He reiterated his policy of giving the board a free hand in the operations of the PNB and in instituting reforms and changes that will convert the bank into a major instrument for the prosecution of the rural improvement program. The board informed the President that they had appointed a committee to look into some allegations brought to the attention of the board regarding one of those being strongly considered for permanent president of the PNB, in line with the board’s desire to exercise utmost care in filling such an important and vital position. The members of the committee are Jose Paez, board chairman and acting PNB president; Francisco Ortigas, Jr.; and Mariano Laurel. The committee were given two days to study the allegations and report their findings.

After the breakfast conference, the President conferred with Executive Secretary Castro, who brought to him a pile of pending state papers for action.

About 10 a.m., the President received officials of the LASEDECO who called to consult him on the critical financial situation of their corporation. They informed the President that the firm needed at least half a million pesos for its settlement projects scheduled to be started soon, such as the Malaya Project in Akle, Bulacan, and the Table Valley Project in Negros Occidental.

Callers received by the President in the morning included Dominador P. Canlas, president of the Manila Pencil Company, who complained against “indiscriminate importation” of pencils; W. L. Lingle, who called to pay his respects; Edonard F. Mialhe and Pierre M. Deleplanque, local French businessmen, who called to deliver a message from Emmanuel Mayolle, president of the French Industries in Paris; John G. Boatwright, president of the Dibrell Brothers, Inc., of Danville, Virginia, USA, who presented the President with samples of cured local tobacco leaves; Proceso Sebastian, Philippine Ambassador to Indonesia; and Sen. Ruperto Kangleon and Rep. Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo.

Shortly before noon, the President managed to slip out of Malacañang to make an unannounced visit to the new offices of the National Bureau of Investigation on Taft Avenue. He announced to a group of NBI officials his plan to revamp the Bureau to make it a more effective agency in the administration of justice. He said the NBI should be geared to a proper administration of justice and not persecute former government officials with “half-baked” cases. The President’s visit was made after City Fiscal Eugenio Angeles had sent a memorandum rejecting the NBI report recommending the investigation of five government officials, including a former Liberal solon, in connection with the disbursement of funds to finance the return of stranded Moro pilgrims from Mecca in 1939. Angeles returned the NBI report and refused to investigate the case for “insufficiency of evidence.” The President was accompanied by Solicitor General Querube C. Makalintal. He took along Makalintal with him because, he said, he wanted to see closer cooperation between the solicitor general’s office and the NBI in the proper and speedy prosecution of pending cases.

At 12:30 p.m., the President was back at Malacañang to preside over the Cabinet meeting which lasted through luncheon, ending at 3:40 p.m. The Cabinet reduced the number of hours that a government official or employee may devote to teaching outside office hours to a total of six hours a week. Previously, they were allowed 10 hours of teaching a week in quarterly courses and 12 hours a week in semestral courses. The President inquired individually from each member of the Cabinet whether he was teaching, and found out that all those who had been teaching previously had relinquished their teaching jobs in line with a previously enunciated presidential directive. Other decisions reached by the Cabinet were:

1. Offering the Philippines as a host nation for a United Nations regional conference on community development in Southeast Asia;
2. Reducing toll rates on the Kennon road in Baguio and abolishing the exemption previously granted to the Baguio Auto Line; and
3. Earmarking the membership of the National Economic Council. Owing to the proposal to reduce the present membership of the Council from 15 to 11 members and pending a decision on the matter, the Cabinet earmarked the 11 positions for the secretary of foreign affairs, the secretary of finance, the secretary of agriculture and natural resources, the secretary of public works and communications, the secretary of labor, the secretary of commerce and industry, the administrator of economic coordination, the governor of the Central Bank, the commissioner of the budget, and a representative of the EDCOR.

The President sent separate messages this day to President Dwight D. Eisenhower and to U.S. House of Representatives expressing his sympathy on the assault on five members of that body by Puerto Rican fanatics. The Department of Foreign Affairs also wired the Philippine Embassy in Washington to express President Magsaysay’s feeling to the victims and their families. President Magsaysay’s message to President Eisenhower said: “Please

accept the sincere sympathy of the Filipino people and my own on assault on five American congressmen by Puerto Rican fanatics.”

In the evening, the President appointed Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason to investigate the charges of Rep. Ramon Durano of Cebu against Eduardo Taylor, general manager of the Cebu Portland Cement Company. The President said he had accepted Taylor’s resignation as member of the board of directors of the National Development Company. Previously, he had granted Taylor’s request for leave of absence pending the result of an investigation of charges presented against him in connection with his official duties.

Malacañang announced this day that effective Saturday, March 6, the guided tours for visitors to Malacañang will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. instead of from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. The change was decided because the President felt that under the old time schedule the visitors who come from far away places may not have time to return home on the same day and if they stayed in Manila, they would incur unnecessary expenses.

March 4.—IN THE MORNING the President had a breakfast conference in Malacañang with members of the Commission on Appointments to thresh out difficulties in connection with the confirmation of some appointments. Vice President Carlos P. Garcia attended the conference, but no member of the minority was present. During the conference, Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., said that it was the feeling of the Commission to turn down all Quirino appointments, giving President Magsaysay the discretion in re-appointing those turned down but who, in his judgment, ought to be confirmed by the Commission on Appointments. Otherwise, all the appointments of the former President would cease to serve after the session of Congress. Rep. Rogaciano Mercado of Bulacan explained his opposition to the appointment of Mrs. Pacita Madrigal Warns as Social Welfare Administrator, but he dropped his opposition after hearing the President’s able defense of Mrs. Warns.

The President and the Congressional leaders also agreed on a closer working liaison between Malacañang and Congress. The understanding was reached after the legislators had aired their complaint that their recommendations had been “ignored” in many instances by Cabinet members.

Following the breakfast conference which ended at 9:30 a. m., the President administered the oath of office to Juan Concon, former deputy auditor general, as deputy administrator of economic coordination. After the induction, the President instructed Economic Coordination Administrator Sotero Cabahug, who was present at the ceremony, and the new appointee to undertake immediate study of all government corporations with the end in view of making them more efficient to serve the purpose for which they had been created.

Callers in Malacañang in the morning included: Gapan, Nueva Ecija, delegation who requested financial assistance in the construction of barrio roads in that town; the *Mancommunidad Pampanga* delegation who invited the President and the First Lady to a dance at the Manila Hotel on March 27; a group of Batangas matrons who called to pay their respects; and Sen. Francisco A. Delgado, Rep. Carmen D. Consing of Capiz, and Rep. Isidro Kintanar of Cebu.

In the afternoon, the President slipped out of Malacañang and motored to the Divisoria Market to check up for himself the prices of rice and meat. He chose Divisoria because, according to him, that was the place where he had lived and worked as a mechanic 25 years ago, and that he wanted to find out how the people with whom he had struggled for, existence were faring along. He first visited the section of rice vendors. He learned from the rice dealers with whom he talked that macan varieties were selling at P.80 a ganta and that other varieties could be sold at P.75 a ganta. Then the President moved over to the meat section where he heard complaints from the meat vendors that Chinese middlemen were controlling the meat trade. He told the meat vendors to form a meat vendors’ cooperative in order that they could pool enough capital to engage in larger scale business. He told them that the government was going to help them in terms of giving dollar allocations for the importation of meat, and in providing freezers and refrigerators where they could store their meat. The President was pleased to find out that the price of meat had not gone up in spite of the ban on the slaughter of carabaos. He did not find any carabao meat for sale in Divisoria.

As soon as people spotted the President entering the market premises, everybody—vendors, buyers, and passers-by—swarmed around him shouting “*Mabuhay*, President Magsaysay.” As he passed along the muddy and narrow

aisles of the market, both sides were lined with hands extended to shake his hand. It took him some 50 minutes going through the market, talking to the vendors and shaking hands with the people. He left the market about 7:30 p.m.

From Divisoria, the President motored to the V. Luna Hospital where he had one molar and one bicuspid extracted.

March 5.—THE PRESIDENT left Malacañang early in the morning for some unknown place. It was presumed that he boarded his yacht *Pagasa* to be able to rest. The President was said to have been bothered greatly by painful hangover on account of the extraction of two teeth the previous day at the V. Luna Hospital. Besides, he has been feeling weak as a result of the fever he contracted last week.

All presidential appointments were cancelled this day including the visit of Maj. Gen. Robert M. Cannon, JUSMAG chief. Brig. Gen. James S. Simons, USA retired and dean of the Harvard School of Public Health, and Dr. Hugh R. Leavell, professor and head of Harvard Public Health Practice, called at Malacañang. They were accompanied to the Palace by Health Secretary Paulino Garcia. Since President Magsaysay was away, Assistant Executive Secretary Mariano A. Yenke, Jr., entertained the callers. He showed them around the Palace and had them served coffee.

March 6.—EARLY in the morning, the President received at Malacañang a large delegation from Lopez, Quezon, which presented a petition requesting the opening of their town's hospital and puericulture center closed last year owing to lack of funds. He instructed Assistant Executive Secretary Yenke to take up the matter with the Department of Health. The Lopez delegation included members of the Quezon Educational Association, which donated P140 raised from voluntary contributions in Lopez for the Liberty Wells fund campaign. Other early morning callers were Sen. Edmundo B. Cea and some officials of the nearby provinces.

The President arrived at the V. Luna Hospital about 9:45 a.m. for a surprise visit. He made a round of the wards and cheered convalescing officers and enlisted men. He also visited members of the 14th BCT recuperating from wounds received when fighting in Korea. He inquired from the patients whether they were being given enough subsistence. In his conference with hospital authorities on the problems of the military hospital, the President expressed his desire to see that armed forces personnel brought there be given all the necessary medical attention. Taking advantage of his visit, the President underwent treatment for an infection which had set in after a tooth extraction two days ago.

Late in the afternoon, the President crossed to the Malacañang Park where he addressed the members of the Philippine Coconut Planters Association who were holding the last session of their two-day convention. The President arrived at the Malacañang Park social hall at 5:20 p.m. and was greeted by a standing ovation by the conventionists. He went around the hall, shaking hands with the delegates. In a brief extemporaneous remarks the President told the coconut planters that the need of the coconut industry was closely linked with decisions to be made by the United States government. This, he said, was one of the several reasons why continued friendship between the Philippines and the United States had to be maintained. He said our country's desire to cooperate with our neighbors in Asia in order to bring about economic independence in this part of the world, includes making better use of assistance being extended by the United States and the United Kingdom and various agencies of the United Nations toward Asia's economic development. He said the real threat to Asian freedom and independence today is the Communist effort to extend its empire by reducing the new free nations of Asia to the status Red colonies, subservient politically and economically to the aggressive designs of Russia and Red China.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Magsaysay gave a formal dinner in honor of Louis St. Laurent, visiting prime minister of Canada, and members of his party.

Noticing that streams of visitors to Malacañang were shown only the ground floor of the Palace and were not allowed upstairs, contrary to the usual weekly procedure, the President called down Malacañang household officials. He resented this treatment of visitors many of whom might have come, from distant places just to have the opportunity of seeing Malacañang at least once in their lifetime.

The President instructed Col. Napoleon D. Valeriano, his senior aide, to pool all gifts received by him and the First Lady from private organizations, business firms, and well-meaning friends and have them auctioned off. The proceeds, said the President, are to be donated to charity. The President also ordered the armed forces corps of engineers to begin the construction of the strategic Lobo-Batangas road in Batangas province early next week. He said he wanted the road built immediately because of its importance not only to the economy of that part of Batangas but also to the peace and order situation in the province.

March 7.—BECAUSE of a third tooth extracted the previous evening, the President was not feeling well this day. Despite his feeling indisposed, he managed to hear mass with his family early in the morning at the Palace chapel. From the chapel he retired to his bedroom.

At 10 a.m., the President stood sponsor at a baptismal ceremony in the San Miguel Pro-Cathedral. Then he held conferences with Assistant Executive Secretaries Mariano A. Yenke, Jr., and Enrique C. Quema, who consulted him on some pending matters. He also conferred with Commissioner Manuel P. Manahan of the Presidential Complaints and Action Commission.

The President held a luncheon conference at noon with leaders of the House and some representatives on various legislative matters. Present at the confab were Speaker Jose Laurel, Jr., Speaker Protempore Daniel Romualdez, Majority Floor Leader Arturo M. Tolentino, Rep. Numeriano Babao, national defense committee chairman, Rep. Bartolome Cabangbang, and Rep. Mario Bengzon. Rep. Tobias Fornier, appropriations committee chairman, was also invited to the hurriedly convoked conference, but he could not be located by the President's aides. It was tentatively agreed at the conference, on suggestion of the solons, that whatever savings might be effected from the defense budget through efficient management would be used for rural development projects, like artesian wells, barrio roads, opening of settlements, etc. They agreed to reduce the armed forces outlay of P178 million by P10 million and to use what would be lopped off for the construction of roads and artesian wells in the rural districts. The President took advantage of the conference to express his views on allegations of "militarism" in the government. He informed the congressmen that the designation of a few army officers to civilian function was not a permanent arrangement but a temporary expediency which he will discontinue upon the stabilization of the government machinery.

March 8.—THE PRESIDENT held a breakfast conference with Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, who called to take up matters affecting the judiciary. Among others, Secretary Tuason brought to the attention of the President the case of a judge of the court of first instance whose resignation had been recommended by the Supreme Court for immoral act. The President asked Secretary Tuason to study whether he could take a more drastic action than that recommended by the Supreme Court, and dismiss the judge instead of merely requesting his resignation. He said he was against treating official malfeasance "with kid gloves." Earlier, the President had signed an administrative order approving Secretary Tuason's recommendation for the suspension of Municipal Judge Edmundo S. Pinga of Zamboanga City, found guilty of "gross ignorance of the law and official negligence." The President told Secretary Tuason to go relentlessly after undesirable members of the judiciary. Also present at the breakfast conference were Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro, Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, and Civil Affairs Commissioner Sofronio Quimzon.

After the breakfast conference, the President received Rep. Emilio Tibble of Camarines Sur and Gov. Salvador Escudero of Sorsogon, who came to see him regarding some problems in their provinces. Rep. Domingo Veloso of Leyte also called for some matters affecting his district.

Late in the afternoon, the President received Arsenio Jison, newly elected president of the Philippine National Bank, who paid a courtesy call shortly after his election as PNB head. The President directed Jison to study possible legislation to convert postal savings banks into easy-credit community banks for the rural population of the country. He decried the present lack of credit facilities in most towns and barrios of the country, pointing out that credit is a basic and indispensable requirement for rural progress. He cited the need of new settlers for credit with which to buy work animals, farm implements, and basic tools needed to give them a decent and fair start in their new life.

The President instructed, the 1st military area command by telephone to go after usurers in the San Luis resettlement project in Pampanga. He ordered the 1st MA command to distribute rice, beef, and chickens personally to the settlers in San Luis to avoid food commodities from falling into private hands. He told the 1st MA command to extend all help to the San Luis settlers, for the resettlement project in Taruc's town was helping the government a lot in the fight against the Huks and communism, according to him.

In the evening, the President announced the creation of an inter-departmental-committee that will study, draft, and recommend measures implementing his land tenure program. He said he was asking department secretaries to recommend for membership in the committee their best men and experts in the land tenure field. He said the committee will include experts in land taxes, tenancy, resettlement, rural credit, and land redistribution. The function of the committee, the President said, will be: first, to prepare the drafts of presidential orders that will immediately implement basic land tenure objectives which do not require congressional action; and second, to check land tenure bills presented in Congress with a view to suggesting complementary measures that will insure a comprehensive and integrated land tenure program.

The President also ordered in the evening the reshuffle of Malacañang officials responsible for the disrespect shown to visitors to Malacañang. He said that visitors to Malacañang are his personal guests and that they should be treated with the same courtesy and politeness shown to his official guests. He pointed out that open-house visitors are mostly provincial folks who spend time and money for the opportunity of seeing Malacañang. They are entitled to consideration and respect for their pains, he said. The President was visibly angry with an officer of the guard last Saturday who had brusquely driven an open-house visitor out of the Malacañang Palace. "I have ordered his deactivation," he said. "I will not tolerate that kind of behaviour with Malacañang visitors."

March 9.—PRESIDENT and Mrs. Magsaysay left Malacañang early in the morning to greet Sen. Jose P. Laurel on his 63rd birth day. They heard a special mass in honor of the Senator's birthday at the Lyceum in Intramuros. Later, together with Sen. Laurel and other well wishers, they proceeded to the Laurel home in Paco where they ate their breakfast:

Upon returning to Malacañang at 10 a.m., the President came upon groups of callers, including Rizal Gov. Wenceslao Pascual, Palawan Gov. Patricio Fernandez, Reps. Gaudencio Abordo of Palawan, Felipe Garduque of Cagayan, and Francisco Ortega of La Union, who urged the President to detail army engineers in their respective provinces. Rep. Emilio Cortez of Pampanga also called on the President to report on the progress of his peace talks with the Huks. The President agreed to detail army engineers to certain provinces to act as temporary district engineers or to assist district engineers.

After his meeting with the congressmen and governors, the President held a closed door conference with Col. Andres Soriano and Col. Bernard Anderson of the Philippine Air Lines. Among the noon callers were Governors Damaso Samonte of Ilocos Norte and Alejandro Almendras of Davao Rep. Jacobo Gonzales of Laguna, and Justice Undersecretary Jesus Barrera.

The President had a busy afternoon, with more callers coming to see him. He conferred with the members of the board of directors of the Manila Hotel who called to inform him that bids for the lease of the Manila Hotel would be opened on May 15. Then the President saw Jose H. Panganiban, general manager of the National Development Company, in connection with steps being taken by the government regarding the contract of the De La Rama Steamship Company with the NDC. The President directed Panganiban to request the NDC board of directors to expedite the study of its contract with the De La Rama Steamship Company with a view to rescinding the contract or amending it to give the government more equitable terms. The President told Panganiban that the terms of the contract were onerous and unfair to the government.

Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez led a delegation of municipal officials from Gingoog and Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, who discussed with the President problems of their municipalities like funds to rehabilitate the school building in a barrio of Tagoloan and the construction of artesian wells. A delegation of the Mabini Rural Improvement Circle of Tanauan, Batangas, asked the President's help for the installation of two artesian wells in barrio Talaga and a two-kilometer road from barrio Talaga to barrio Sala, Tanauan.

March 10.—FOLLOWING a breakfast conference at Malacañang with congressional leaders, the President issued a statement in the morning clarifying the administration's foreign policy with reference to Asia. The statement takes an unequivocal position supporting the freedom and independence of individual Asian nations without the use of any catch-phrase. The policy spelled out calls for closest possible cultural and economic cooperation with free Asian neighbors in matters of regional interest, while respecting the right of each nation to self-determination in matters of its own interests. Recognizing the withdrawal of old-style colonialism from Asia, the statement identifies aggressive communist imperialism as the new colonial threat and takes the position that a return of colonialism in any form is not to be tolerated. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 995-996, for the full text of the President's statement on Asian foreign policy.)

After the breakfast conference which lasted for more than three hours, the President conferred briefly with Gov. Felixberto C. Dagani of Agusan, who consulted him on financial problems affecting Agusan. Other callers were Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez and Rep. Miguel Cuenco of Cebu. The President received callers up to noon, when he presided over the regular meeting of the Cabinet.

At a two-hour luncheon meeting at noon, the President and the Cabinet agreed to release P15,130,000 from the highways fund for the improvement, paving, reconstruction, and construction of roads, streets, and bridges. The highway fund is expected to amount to P36 million from January 1 to June 30 this year. The Cabinet approved a schedule of fund allocations for repair, maintenance, and construction prepared by the Department of Public Works and Communications. The Cabinet also decided to press collection of the money value of surplus property withdrawn from the defunct surplus property commission on memorandum receipts.

During the Cabinet meeting, at the request of Public Works Undersecretary Vicente Orosa, the President agreed to certify to the urgency of a pending bill in Congress appropriating P3 million for a modernization program for the Bureau of Telecommunications. The President also created an educational survey commission to undertake a thorough study of the problem of public school education in the country and the need for revisions in the curricula of schools on all levels. He appointed Education Secretary Pastor M. Endencia chairman, of the commission, whose membership will be announced later.

In the afternoon, the President received Cecil B. Lloyd (Mystery Singer) and P. B. Santos, who presented to him "stampers" of the recorded songs about President Magsaysay. Lloyd sang for the President some bars of the new song dedicated to him entitled "Carabao Ban", which he enjoyed.

Then the President took time out to meet some 20 students leaders from different universities who were having an organizational meeting at the Council of State room. He told them that students should not only participate in the discussion of public affairs but should contribute their talents and energy in helping solve the problems of government. The President took the first step towards crystallizing a pre-election project of his to harness into government service the potentials of students in helping carry the burden of government activities. He said the student body might be tentatively called the Council of Students, to be composed of students leaders elected by various universities. The student group would form an official consultative body which he would consult on various matters, particularly those affecting the youth. The President mentioned the rural improvement program as a major government project to which the students must contribute their effort. One of the students leaders suggested to the President that during the summer sessions, third year students of surveying could be sent to the field and actually survey public lands instead of being kept in the city to survey already known and settled sites.

March 11.—THE PRESIDENT in the morning assured a delegation of members of the United Church and the Philippine Federation of Christian Churches that there would always be religious freedom in the country. The delegation was headed by Enrique Sobrepeña and Gumerindo Garcia, who told the President that they felt apprehensive over the appointment of many rabid Catholics in important government posts. The President said that as long as he is President there will always be separation of Church and State in this country. In regard to optional religious instruction in the public schools, he gave assurance that there would be no special privilege granted to any particular religious group or sect in the public schools.

Malacañang was swamped as usual with numerous callers, morning and afternoon. Vicente Araneta, ACCFA Chairman, presented the President with a plan to install cooperative *bodegas* in farming communities to do away with usurers, middlemen, and speculators who prey on the farmers. Araneta informed the Chief Executive of the necessity of continuing the commodity loan program of the ACCFA.

Later, the President conferred with the board of directors of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. Dindo Gonzales, chairman of the board, informed the President that he had already streamlined the sweepstakes office with emphasis on efficiency and economy. He said there are now only four departments in the sweepstakes office in place of the seven before.

Morning callers included Rep. Mario Bengzon of Pangasinan, former Rep. Felixberto Serrano of Batangas, Toribio Teodoro of *Ang Tibay*, and A. J. Vaughn and J. G. Azaola of the Firestone International Company.

In the afternoon, some 20 ROTC cadet sponsors and unit commanders presented the President with three checks amounting to P1,000 as their contribution to the rural improvement program of the President. Miss Emma Nepomuceno, regimental sponsor of the U. P. cadets, who presented the checks to the President, said that the gift was an expression of the faith of the youth in the President's rural improvement program and in him as the leader of the people. Cadet Corps Commanders Francisco Naranjilla of the F.E.U. gave the President a mounted empty 57 mm. shell, one of those fired during the President's inauguration last December 30.

The President was touched by the manifestation of the students' faith in the new administration and in their sincere efforts to contribute their share to its success. He said in his brief remarks that the students' contribution was an inspiration that would sustain him in carrying on the high objectives of his administration. He said the students' manifestation of support would go a long way in sustaining him in overcoming the many obstacles that stood in the way of the realization of his objectives. And the President promised: "This administration will work sincerely for the welfare of our country."

Earlier in the afternoon, the President received sample packages of raticide presented to him by Ramon Chuanico, president of the Standard Alcohol Company. According to Chuanico, the raticide kills the rats by producing internal hemorrhage and not by poisoning, and if, is not harmful to persons or plants. He said his company was donating to the government 1,000 lbs. of the raticide to help in the anti-rat campaign of the government.

The President also received Sen. Esteban R. Abada and Rep. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing, both members of the board of regents of the University of the Philippines. Frank J. Davy, export manager of the Elgin National Watch Company, also called to pay his respects to the President.

March 12.—PRESIDENT MAGSAYSAY spent the whole day abroad the U. S. Navy's 40,000-ton aircraft carrier *Wasp* as guest of American Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance. Accompanied by his aides and escorted by Rear Admiral Richard Cruzen, commander of the U. S. naval forces in the Philippines, the President boarded the *Wasp* at 8:25 a.m. Here he was greeted by Ambassador Spruance and Vice Admiral W. K. Philips, commander of the U. S. First Fleet. As the motorboat bearing the President approached the *Wasp*, the carrier boomed a 21-gun salute. With the President besides his aides were Vice President Carlos P. Garcia, Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro, General Jesus Vargas, and W. S. B. Lacy, U S. counselor and deputy chief of mission.

After reviewing the aerial demonstration given in his honor by the U.S. Navy outside the Manila Bay, the President said the Philippines will rally with the rest of the free world to preserve democracy and freedom against the forces of communism. The demonstration, he said, was evidence of the striking power and fighting skill of America. It is this striking power, he added, "which sustained the democracies to victory in past struggles against communism."

The President viewed the aerial show, which started at 11 a.m., from the carrier's bridge. Dive bombing, strafing, and rocket attacks on floating targets by some 30 planes featured the demonstration. The President and his party were guests at a buffet luncheon after the demonstration.

After the luncheon, the President watched a simulated attack on the *Wasp* by the submarine *U. S. S. Bluegill*, one of the U. S. Navy's newest types of undersea fighter. The afternoon demonstration ended with a simulated attack on the submarine by the destroyer *U. S. S. Erben*. The President expressed his gratitude to the commander of the U. S. First Fleet, for the "wonderful reception given to me and to my party."

The aircraft carrier returned to its mooring beyond the break-water at past 4 p.m. The President was piped to the side of the carrier and was given full honors. He returned to Malacañang late in the afternoon.

After resting briefly, the President held a dinner conference with the members of the House budget committee over the 1955 national budget. At the conference, the House budget committee decided to restore the P200,000 appropriations for gratuity to war widows and orphans and increased the national aid to indigents from P500,000 to P1 million. The other restored items were: P100,000 for the operation of the PI-UNESCO national community school training center in Bayambang, Pangasinan; P59,140 for the Philippine diplomatic mission in Seoul, Korea; and P229,160 for the peace and order campaign.

The President, when asked to comment on news reports that former President Quirino would be asked shortly to remove part of his Novaliches country home from a government lot he is occupying in the La Mesa Dam area of the Metropolitan Water District, said that he planned to recommend legislation to Congress to donate the piece of land alluded to, to former President Quirino, provided such a donation would not impair, the efficiency of the MWD nor interfere with its plans in carrying out its work.

He said an alternative course would be for Mr. Quirino to exchange a lot of his for the portion of the MWD-lot occupied by his home. This statement was made to newspapermen in the morning aboard the *U.S. S. Wasp*.

The President sent a message to His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, conveying "my sincere greetings and cordial felicitations on the anniversary of your coronation today." The message said further: "The Filipino people likewise join me in praying for your complete recovery."

March 13.—IN the morning, the President had a conference with Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason who consulted him on matters pertaining to the Department of Justice. He also had a lengthy conference with Executive Secretary Castro who brought to him a pile of pending state papers for action.

Then the President received the tobacco fact-finding and survey committee headed by former Minister Manuel Nieto. The committee called at Malacañang to submit a 17-page report on its finding after undertaking a two-month survey of the local tobacco industry. Among its recommendations was the creation of the National Tobacco Corporation to stabilize prices of tobacco, assist producers in marketing their products, and improve the local tobacco culture. The President expressed himself in favor of the re-establishment of the NATOCO as a means of saving the neglected tobacco industry which constitutes one of the mainstays of the nation's agricultural economy. He stressed the need of government intervention in the rehabilitation of the industry and its restoration to its pre-war status. During the conference, the President asked Rep. Felipe Garduque of Cagayan, a member of the tobacco survey committee, to initiate a measure in the current session of Congress providing for the re-creation of the NATOCO.

The President also received a delegation of sugar planters and millers who invited him to attend their convention on April 5 as guest of honor. The group informed him that sugar planters and millers were uniting for the first time in order to present a solid front in support of the present administration.

Other Malacañang morning callers included: Gov. Federico Castillo of Mindoro Occidental, Gov. Francisco Infantado and Rep. Conrado Morente of Mindoro Oriental, Sen. Mariano J. Cuenco, Rep. Enrique Corpus of Zambales, Gov. Dominador Chipeco of Laguna, and Gov. Patricio Fernandez of Palawan.

At 10 a.m., the President went down the Palace to board his car. Finding that his car was not yet at the door, he walked to the Palace gate to meet the car which had been hastily summoned from the garage. At the gate, in no time, the President was surrounded by swarms of people trying to gain entry into the Palace grounds and seeking audience

with the Chief Executive, including school children who happened to be sightseeing in the premises at that time. The President was delayed at the gate about one hour, talking to the crowd or posing with school children for souvenir pictures taken with box cameras the children had brought along.

At 11 a.m., the President finally succeeded in getting into his car. He motored to Quezon City and made a surprise visit at the National Defense Department offices in Camp Murphy. He stayed there about 30 minutes inspecting various offices and talking to individual employees. He left Camp Murphy about 12 noon.

The President slipped out of Manila quietly in the afternoon. He boarded his yacht *Pagasa* and sailed for Poro Point.

In the evening, the President appointed a committee headed by Atty. Ambrosio Dollete to investigate alleged anomalies in the Peoples Homesite Housing Corporation. A previous fact-finding committee appointed by the President to undertake the study of the operations of the PHHC had reported to the President that one Miguel Morelos and sons had allegedly acquired last year, through wholesale purchase, 14 hectares of choice homesite lots along Quezon Boulevard Extension at P3 a square meter, now being allegedly sold from P14 to P18 a square meter. It was further alleged that the funds used for the said purchase had been borrowed from the RFC through the intervention of the former chairman of the board of directors of the PHHC. If the unearthed findings are substantiated by investigation of the new committee, the President ordered, immediate charges will be filed in the courts, and the contract will be rescinded if warranted.

March 14.—AFTER HAVING met rough seas as it sailed along Zambales coast, the yacht *Pagasa* docked at Poro Point shortly before noon. The President lunched with his aides aboard the yacht before going ashore. He retired to the naval resthouse where he stayed the rest of the afternoon. As nobody in San Fernando knew that the President was at Poro Point, no callers came to see the President.

At 5 p.m., the President left Poro Point and motored to Baguio, arriving there shortly before seven. At 8 in the evening, he dined with some guests, including Manila reporters, at the Guest House. During dinner the President gave an informal press conference. He said he ordered an immediate investigation of the alleged mismanagement of the PHHC under the past administration. He said he suspected that some officials of the past administration made money out of the transactions in the PHHC. He said he would contact Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason immediately with a view to affecting a prompt and thorough probe of the alleged anomalies. "If found guilty, those responsible for the Homesite irregularities should be sent to jail immediately," the President promised. He said he would suspend immediately PHHC officials who are hold-overs in their present positions.

After the informal press conference, the President, together with Executive Secretary Castro, studied the pile of papers which needed his immediate attention. Later, he received local officials before leaving to attend the graduation hop of the Philippine Military Academy as the principal guest. The President was accompanied to the dance by Maj. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Eulogio Balao, AFP vice chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Alfonso Arellano, PATC commanding general; and other army brass.

March 15.—FOLLOWING breakfast with some guests, including J. P. McEvoy, *Reader's Digest* traveling editor, the President dressed up and drove to Loakan airport, escorted by Generals Jesus Vargas and Alfonso Arellano. The President was the guest of honor and commencement speaker at the graduation exercises of the Philippine Military Academy held in the morning at the Jurado Hall, Loakan. In his commencement address, the President impressed upon the graduates of the military academy that public service is a sacrifice and that the only consolation they could possibly derive out of their tour of duty with the armed forces is the fact that they are doing their share of serving their country. In his speech the President took occasion to express deep resentment against insinuations that the armed forces were "plotting at every turn to seize the government and deliver it to some vague and indefinite mastermind or junta." He pointed out that "our officers—and through them, our soldiers—are trained and indoctrinated to the fundamental democratic concept of the supremacy of civilian authority." They are, he said, Filipino first, soldiers second, "owing loyalty first to the Constitution and only secondly to the Manual of War." At the same time the President explained the need for enlisting "the services and assistance of both resigned and active officers of the armed forces, in civilian function." (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 996-999, for the full text of the President's speech.)

Toward the end of the commencement exercises, the President awarded the diplomas to the graduates. After the ceremony, the President was escorted to Melchor Hall where cocktails were served. Then he motored to the Pines Hotel where the PMA graduation luncheon in honor of the Chief Executive was held. It was 2 p.m. when the President returned to the Guest

Late in the afternoon, the President held a two-hour conference with Maj. Gen. Robert M. Cannon, JUSMAG chief and the top brass of the AFP. They discussed the Huk situation in general, as well as the strengthening and streamlining of the armed forces. After the conference the President said the armed forces will step-up its campaign against the Huks, using the same "unorthodox methods" he initiated while still defense secretary and which netted great results.

March 16.—WAKING UP early in the morning, the President had a breakfast, conference with Executive Secretary Castro during which he acted on a number of pending state papers brought over from Manila.

After acting on state papers, the President repaired to his private study where he held an hour's huddle with officials of the National Economic Council; namely, Filemon C. Rodriguez, Amado Dalisay, and Conrado Ramirez. They conferred on the proposed five-year economic development program of the new administration.

Shortly after 11 a.m., the President left Baguio by plane for Manila. Immediately upon arrival at Malacañang at 2 p.m., the President held a closed-door conference with officials of the Philippines Air Lines—Cols. Andres Soriano and Bernard Anderson.

Following his conference with the PAL officials, the President proceeded to the Council of State room where he administered the oath of office to Enrique T. Manaloto as mayor of Pasay City. The President wished the new mayor good luck and success and told him to "continue with the good job done by Mayor Santos," because, he said, "Manaloto's success as Pasay City Mayor would also be the success of the government." The President praised Vice Mayor Adolfo C. Santos, who had been acting as Pasay City mayor during the past two months, for having given Pasay City a bright chapter in its history. "Help and cooperate with Mayor Manaloto," he told Santos, who will remain in his post as vice mayor.

After the oath-taking, the President received Owen Kiralfy of London, England, who had started three years ago to travel around the world on five English pounds, equivalent to P30. Then he held a series of conferences with several Malacañang assistants who consulted him on routine matters, after which he left Malacañang to fulfill a dinner engagement.

The President instructed Atty. Ambrosio Dollete in the evening to speed up the investigation of alleged anomalies in the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation. Dollete, who had been appointed by the President as chairman of the investigating committee composed of Maj. Jose Lucban and a representative of the Solicitor General's office, reported to the President that aside from the first charge of alleged irregularities in connection with the transactions of Miguel Morelos and sons with the PHHC, many other charges were being received by his committee.

The President said in the evening that he had sent to Cebu an efficiency expert team headed by supervising engineer Leonardo Ocampo to investigate the reported drop, from 20,000 bags to 8,000 bags daily, in the production of the Portland Cement Company. Three furnaces of the company had shut down, according to the information received by the President.

March 17.—ACCOMPANIED by Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro, the President left after breakfast for the yacht *Pagasa* where he pored over pending state papers. Upon his return to Malacañang at 11 a.m., he went directly to his study where he received several callers

A delegation from the benefits division of the 1954 Philippine National Red Cross fund campaign invited the President to toss the first ball at the benefit basketball special games on March 27. The delegation was composed of Mrs. Tara Ali Baig, Mrs. Belen Enrile-Gutierrez, and Mrs. Edith Pelaez. They were accompanied to Malacañang by Social Welfare Administrator Pacita Madrigal Warns, general chairman of this year's PNRC benefits division. Other

callers included Rep. Domocao Alonto of Lanao, Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson of Manila, and some provincial and municipal officials who consulted him on problems of their respective localities.

Before convoking the regular weekly meeting of the Cabinet, the President conferred with members of the mining commission headed by Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta. In a 12-page report submitted to the President, the commission recommended the granting of subsidies to local gold mining companies as a means of saving an important dollar-producing and dollar-conserving industry from ruin. The commission recommended a subsidy of P41.72 per ounce for marginal mines and P35.40 per ounce for above-marginal mines to keep the mine industry going. The closing of the mines, it was explained, besides destroying an important industry, would result in the unemployment of 15,000 workers and aggravate the nation's unemployment problem. The President promised to study the report thoroughly.

The President convoked the Cabinet meeting about 1 p.m. The meeting was held over luncheon from 12:15 to 3 p.m., with the Chief Executive presiding up to 2:40 p.m. when he yielded the chair to Vice president Carlos P. Garcia to fulfill an urgent engagement.

The President during the Cabinet meeting pressed relentlessly his determination to maintain the highest standard of efficiency, honesty, and morality in his administration by requesting the resignation of Judge Luis Ortega of the Laguna Court of first instance for immorality and falsification. He signed Administrative Order No. 14, requiring Ortega to resign within 'five days from receipt of notice or "he would be considered as having been removed from office effective on the day following the expiration of said period." The president also issued Administrative Order No. 12, stiffening the penalty of mere transfer and reprimand meted to Foreign Affairs Officer Jose Q. Tabora by the past administration by adding to it a month's suspension without pay for gross negligence. Moreover, the President instructed the Secretary of Education to request the resignation of Dr Manuel L. Carreon, director of the Bureau of Private Schools, in view of the latter's failure to report and act promptly on the Chief Executive's directive to investigate and close down diploma mills.

After consulting during the Cabinet meeting with Vice President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently secretary of foreign affairs and, as such, chairman of the Philippine panel for the Philippines-United States talks on military bases, the President announced that the Philippine Government will move for postponement of the formal talks on the bases until after the return of Vice President Garcia from the Geneva conference on Korea. The move for postponement was agreed upon in order to avoid the possibility of having the talks interrupted by Garcia's departure for Geneva five days before the start of the Geneva conference on April 27.

Other development during the meeting of the Cabinet were:

1. A committee was appointed to study the financing problems of Station DZFM, in accordance with a recommendation of Undersecretary of Public Works Vicente Orosa. Named to the committee were Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, chairman; and Undersecretary Orosa and Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, members.
2. The Cabinet approved a recommendation of the budget commission to compel government-owned corporations to submit to a survey by the personnel of the Wage and Position Classification Office (WAPCO), a PHILCUSA-FOA project aimed at classifying positions and standardizing salaries in the national government; including government-owned corporations.
3. The Cabinet laid down a policy requiring public bidding for the disposition of all government property, particularly government vehicles, with priority to be given to the actual users of the vehicles in case of identical highest bids.

The President withdrew this day the designation of NBI Chief Leoncio Tan to membership of the three-man committee created to investigate the release impounded potatoes and appointed Justice Undersecretary Jesus Barrea in his place. Under the new composition of the committee, Barrera, as the highest ranking official in the probe body, will act as chairman. The members are Eligio Tavanlar, chairman of the LASEDECO, and Francisco Marquez of the

Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The President felt it proper to withdraw Col. Leoncio Tan from the committee to order not to hamper the investigation in any way and to oviate the slightest doubts and suspicions, since the NBI was implicated with the release of the impounded potatoes. The President's action was not to be interpreted as a reflection on, or prejudgment of, the role of the NBI and its officials in the release of the potatoes.

March 18.—IN the morning, after his conference with Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz on pending state papers, the President received callers who kept coming to Malacañang until past 12 noon.

Mayor Alfonso Espino of Dingle, Iloilo, called to report on the progress of the construction work on the P7.5-million irrigation project in his town. Espino, who was accompanied by Rep. Ricardo Y. Ladrido, denied reports of labor disputes in connection with the irrigation construction.

A delegation of the ILO Club composed of officials who had represented the Philippines at the annual conferences of the International Labor Organization. in Geneva since 1949 also called to invite the President to be guest of honor at the Labor Day celebration in May. Accompanied by Acting Labor Secretary Pantaleon Pelayo, the labor group also sought the President's support of various labor legislation pending in Congress.

A group of municipal officials from Del Gallego, Camarines Sur, came to request financial assistance for the construction of water system, barrio schools, and roads.

The President also received complaints against the alleged disappearance of P74,330.83 from the Allied Labor Union funds. Two labor leaders, Catalino delos Santos and Felixberto Javier, representing laborers of the Insular Lumber Company of Fabrica, Negros Occidental, called to lodge their complaints against certain officials of the Allied Labor Union.

Other morning callers at Malacañang included: Dr. I. C. Fang, regional WHO director for the Western Pacific, who called to pay his respects; Rep. Felix Fuentebella of Camarines Sur, who asked for funds for road construction in his province; Rep. Luminog Mangelen of Cotabato, who appraised the President of the latest development on the rat situation there; Raul Manlapuz, member of the board of directors of the Metropolitan Water District, who conferred with the President on the possibility of expanding the facilities of the MWD and the lowering of rates charged to customers; Laguna officials composed of Gov. Dominador Chipeco and Reps. Wenceslao Lagumbay and Jacobo Gonzales; and several others, including Sen. Manuel Briones and Rep. Pio Duran of Albay.

The President directed Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro in the morning to look into the unaccounted cash advances totalling P700,000 made to Malacañang officials and employees during the past administration. The President wished immediate steps be taken to inquire into these accounts and make the Malacañang personnel concerned settle their accounts. He also issued in the morning Executive Order No. 17, reducing office hours during summer to five continuous hours from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The summer schedule will apply from April 1 to June 15, 1954, to all provincial, city, or municipal governments, except the City of Baguio.

In the afternoon the President received Dr. Vidal A. Tan president of the University of the Philippines, who submitted to the Chief Executive a memorandum explaining how the U. P. authorities decided to grant honorary degrees to the President, Jose Yulo, the late Dr. Bienvenido Gonzales, and Dr. Fernando Ordovesa. The President also inducted Isaac Lacson as fulltime member of the board of governors of the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation. After Lacson's induction into office, the President left for V. Luna Hospital where he had his teeth treated.

In the evening, the President turned over to the Jayceerettes all gifts he had received since his election with the request that they be raffled off and the proceeds donated to the Philippines National Red Cross.

March 19.—FOLLOWING his conference with Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro after breakfast, the President left Malacañang and boarded his yacht *Pagasa* where he stayed the whole day. He instructed Secretary Castro to represent him at the convention of the local manufacturers and producers held at the Manila Hotel in the morning.

Aboard the yacht, the President stepped up the tempo of his government clean-up program by creating a committee to investigate alleged labor anomalies in the employment of Filipino laborers in Guam. He signed Administrative Order No. 17, creating a body to investigate the alleged anomalies, with Dean Vicente Sinco of the College of Law, University of the Philippines, as chairman. The members of the committee are Mariano Tuazon, labor commissioner of the Court of Industrial Relations, and Juan Matutina, assistant auditor of the National Power Corporation.

March 20.—PRESIDENT MAGSAYSAY extended a helping hand to the only living sister of Andres Bonifacio, the Great Plebian. He directed Assistant Executive Secretary Mariano A. Yenke, Jr., to receive personally Mrs. Espiridiona Bonifacio-Distrito in the morning to give her financial and medical help. The 80-year old only living sister of Andres Bonifacio complained of heart disease and high blood pressure. She said that she had a stroke of paralysis sometimes ago but she has recovered from the attack. Secretary Yenke, after inquiring into her case, immediately extended the Octogenarian financial help in the name of the President. Then he sent her in a Malacañang car to Health Secretary Paulino Garcia for medical examination and possible confinement in the North General Hospital. She declined confinement in the hospital, but she was grateful for the medical examination and for the President's solicitude.

Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro designated Bienvenido Ibarle as acting provincial governor of Zamboanga del Sur, vice Serapio Datoc, who had been suspended by the President for alleged misconduct in office and oppression. Ibarle was inducted in the morning by Secretary Castro in the presence of several Mindanao political leaders and Palace officials. A special investigator from the Office of the President will conduct the necessary investigation of the suspended governor. Datoc was suspended to prevent him from using his office to coerce or intimidate witnesses during the investigation of the charges filed against him.

Press Secretary J. V. Cruz said this day that President Magsaysay was not contemplating any change in his policy of first attending to and finishing his "homework" before entertaining any proposals for the Pacific defense arrangement. This statement of the Press Secretary was Malacañang's reaction to a press agency report that the United States, speaking through Assistant Undersecretary of State Robert Murphy, had "by implication chided the Magsaysay administration for keeping aloof "from a joint move of Korean President Syngman Rhee and Nationalist China's Chiang Kai-shek to sponsor a Pacific anti-Communist defense alliance.

Early in the morning, the President went over the text of his FEU speech aboard the yacht *Pagasaw* where he had spent the previous evening. At 11:30 a.m., he left the yacht and returned to Malacañang where he tendered a luncheon in honor of Vice Admiral W. K. Philipps, commander of the U. S. First Fleet.

In the afternoon, the President rested preparatory to attending the FEU commencement exercises. Accompanied by Mrs. Luz B. Magsaysay, the President arrived at the FEU administration building at 4:30 p.m. He was given ruffles and flourishes by the FEU ROTC band. This was followed by the playing of the national anthem.

The Far Eastern University conferred upon President Magsaysay the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities at its graduation exercises. It was the first time the FEU conferred such an honorary degree to anyone. Previously President A. Sukarno of Indonesia and former President Quirino had been conferred by the FEU the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. FEU President Teodoro Evangelista read the citation and the conferment of the honorary degree. The First Lady placed on the President the hood. This over, President Magsaysay read his 31-minute address.

In his commencement address, the President announced for the first time the completion of a 5-year economic development program which will create employment and increase agriculture as well as industrial production. The cost of the program, he said, has been estimated at an average of P800 million annually for the five-year period over which it is spread. The total first-year investment contemplates the use of P631 million. The President recited the highlights of his economic development program which he expects will be implemented through a revitalized National Economic Council and improved government function. He said the government will largely depend on private investment for the realization of its economic objectives. He said: "I wish to re-assure private enterprise that it is the policy of this administration to give every encouragement and incentive to private investments, upon which it will largely depend for the realization of its economic objectives." (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 1000-1007, for the full text of the President's address.)

From the FEU, following the commencement exercises, the President motored to the Rizal Memorial Stadium where he tossed the ball at the basketball exhibition game between the Malacañang Carabao Team and the City Hall players led by Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson himself. The President and the First Lady sat through the whole 24-minute play. The President took to the floor once more to toss the ball in the following game between the Diplomats and the Congressmen. The two exhibition games were held in connection with the Red Cross benefit basketball games between the UST and the PAL and between the FEU and the Ateneo Blue Eagles.

March 21.—THE PRESIDENT heard mass at the Malacañang chapel at 7 a.m. with members of his family. After eating breakfast, he later left for Cavite for a surprise inspection of the peace and order condition in that province. Accompanied by General Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff, and Col. Napoleon D. Valeriano, presidential aide, the President held a conference with Capt. Teodoro E. Mascardo at the latter's headquarters at Imus. The Chief Executive was told that the acts of lawlessness, in the province were perpetrated by former election terrorists who had fled to the hills after the elections in fear of prosecution. He was informed that the outlaws included those pardoned by former President Quirino shortly before the past administration bowed out.

The conference discussed ways and means of improving the provincial command's intelligence systems and increasing patrol along the highways and in the bandit-infested areas. The President suggested that efforts be taken to cut down the wooded areas in the towns of Amadeo, Tanza, and Indang, which he directed placed under PC control in order to prevent outlaws from using them as a refuge.

The President ate lunch at the Taal Vista Lodge in Tagaytay City. Here he met Yu Khe Thai, second vice-chairman of the Peace and Amelioration Fund Commission, from whom he inquired about the progress of the group's operations.

Enroute back to Manila, the President stopped at barrio Pulanglupa, Las Piñas, to look over the Bureau of Public Works artesian well project and talk with barrio people. He arrived at Malacañang at 3:15 p.m.

At 5 p.m., after having a brief rest, the President left for the National University commencement exercises at the Rizal Coliseum, where he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*, the second honorary degree he received in two consecutive days.

In his commencement address which lasted about 15 minutes, the President said that for the sake of its security the Philippines must maintain friendly relation with the rest of the free world. He expanded on his foreign policy speech in Clark Field last month, where he expounded on a pro-Asian policy for his administration. He stressed the Philippines' stand for the development of healthy nationalism as one of the defenses against aggressive communism. "In my mind," he said, "nations are very much like individuals, and the world is imply a large community in which nations live and work as neighbors." The Philippines must contribute its share to the free world for common security, he said. As individuals and as a nation, the Filipinos have faith in the democratic process and in government of law, he explained. For this reason, he said, the Filipinos believed that the law-abiding community of nations holds the key to world peace and security. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 1007-1010, for the full text of the President's address.)

The President and the First Lady arrived at the coliseum at 5:30 p. m., in time to join the academic procession on its way to the specially built platform at the other end of the coliseum. The President and his lady received a long ovation as they entered the coliseum and as they were about to get onto the platform. At 5:45 p.m., NU President Domingo Jhocson read the citation as he conferred the honorary degree on the President. Mrs. Luz B. Magsaysay then placed the violet striped hood on the President Immediately after, the President delivered his commencement address. He stayed until the exercise were over, arriving at Malacañang shortly before 7 p. m.

March 22.—PRESIDENT MAGSAYSAY had breakfast with a delegation from Batangas headed by Sen. Jose P. Laurel, Sr. Also present was Mayor Jose Cabatuando of Gapan, Nueva Ecija. After the breakfast, the President received Governors Wilfredo Panotes of Camarines Norte Patricio Fernandez of Palawan, and Bado Dangwa of Mountain Province, who came to discuss problems affecting their respective provinces; Bibiano R. Dador, a 93-year old captain of the Philippine Revolution from Castillejos, Zambales, who complained about his meager pension of

only P15 a month; and Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez, Rep. Ramon Mitra of Mt. Province, and Rep. Emilio Cortez of Pampanga.

The President had a lengthy conference with RFC Chairman Edgardo Romualdez, on a subject which was not divulged. Afterwards, the President received the executive committee of the National Press Club building.

The President instructed Col. Nicanor Jimenez, newly named chief of the Civil Affairs Office, to bolster the psychological warfare program of the army. Col. Jimenez was commanding officer of the 14th BCT in Korea, who had been called back to head the CAO once headed by Maj. Jose M. Crisol.

In a communication to U. S. Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance, the President requested the United States government to extend the effectivity of the Bell Trade Act for another 18 months beyond July 3 this year, in view of the lack of time “to consider and act upon certain desired modifications.

Malacañang released this day the text of Administrative Order No. 13 signed by the President on March 17, standardizing salaries for ranking positions in provincial and city governments.

From 5 p. m. to past 6:30 p. in., the President conferred with government officials at his ante-room. He conferred with Arsenio Jison, PNB president, and Jose Paez, chairman of the PNB board of directors, on the proposed draft of a bill that would convert postal savings banks into community rural banks to enable farmers in rural areas to borrow small capital to work their farms on easy terms and without red tape. The President reiterated to the bank officials the urgency of his directive that the postal banks be converted into rural banks in order to give impetus to farmers and contribute to the development of rural areas. The President also conferred with LASEDECO Chairman Eligio Tavanlar and Anatolio Lintonjua, technical assistant, on the progress of the Aide resettlement project in Bulaeen. The officials reported that 46 families were already settled there and living in bunkhouses built on home lots that had been given the settlers.

In the evening, the President nominated Eleuterio “Magtanggol” Adevosos for the post of secretary of labor and Jaime Ferrer as undersecretary of agriculture and natural resources, vice Jose S. Camus, whose resignation had been accepted. Adevosos was national coordinator of the Magsaysay for-President Movement during the last elections, while Ferrer was chairman of the National Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL), which has been credited with contributing to free elections in 1951 and 1953.

Later in the evening, the President motored to Camp Murphy to attend the birthday celebration of General Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff.

March 23.—AFTER having an early breakfast, the President left for an unknown place. He was accompanied by Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro and Legislative Secretary Jose Nable, who carried with them bulging portfolios. The President had to do this to be able to work on high pile of pending state papers. Shortly before noon he returned to Malacañang for lunch.

Early in the evening, the President received a delegation from Infanta, Quezon, which presented to him problems of their town. In answer to the group’s petition, the President took immediate action as follows:

1. He sent a personal note to Health Secretary Paulino Garcia directing him to see if financial aid could be extended for the construction of an annex to the puericulture center of Infanta.
2. Regarding the request for the reclassification of parcels of land in Infanta from forest reservations to agricultural lands, the President wrote a personal note to the Bureau of Forestry on the matter.
3. The President wrote another note to the Bureau of Posts Director Juan Ruiz, requesting that direct mail service be opened to Infanta. Up to the present, mail to Infanta is routed through Siniloan.

4. The President sent a note to General Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff, requesting him to send a detachment to Infanta to protect the people.

One Feliciano Tamagros, a tenant of San Dionisio, Paranaque, came to complain to the President about the loss of two carabaos. He pleaded with the President that he be given help to purchase work animals so that he could continue his farm work. The President directed Assistant Executive Secretary Enrique Quema to see if he could help the tenant obtain a loan from any government financial institution.

Other evening callers at the Palace included: Rizal Gov. Wenceslao Pascual, Reps. Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo, Jose Roy of Tarlac, and Ramon Durano of Cebu.

After receiving all these callers, the President again left Malacañang for an unknown place.

March 24.—SHORTLY after breakfast, the President received a group of Mindanao solons headed by Rep. Roseller T. Lim of Zamboanga del Sur who called to consult the Chief Executive about matters affecting their region. Following the conference, the President, along with the Mindanao congressmen, proceeded to the Council of State room, where the President signed House Bill No. 496, appropriating P4 million for the maintenance and operation of about 3,000 extension elementary classes up to the end of the current fiscal year.

Then the President went to his Palace study where he received Ambassador Antonio Gullon Gomez of Spain, who called to say good-bye before his return home after serving a tour of duty in this country.

Shortly before 10 a.m., the President received the credentials of Allard Merens as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Netherlands to the Philippines. Minister Merens was presented to the President by Chief Protocol Officer Luis Moreno Salcedo of the Department of Foreign Affairs. The presentation ceremonies were held at the ceremonial hall of Malacañang.

The President had a brief conference with Vice President Carlos P. Garcia after the presentation ceremonies. He also talked to some congressmen who were present at the signing of the Deficiency Bill. Then he proceeded to the reception hall where a delegation from Sagay, Negros Occidental, headed by Ramon Lacson, was waiting for him. The President also received, in his study the mayor and councilors of General Luna, Quezon. Accompanied by Rep. Leon Guinto, Jr., the delegation, through Major Jose Carmona, presented to the President several resolutions passed by the municipal board for the improvement of the municipality of General Luna.

In Proclamation No. 11, issued this day, the President declared Friday, April 9, 1954, a special public holiday in commemoration of the heroism of Filipino and American forces that defended, Bataan. He also issued Executive Order No. 21, permitting the retention in the same office of couples who had married in the course of their employment there. Retention of these couples, President Magsaysay said in his executive order amending Executive Order No. 111, prohibiting nepotism, "will not be considered as nepotism."

The President pushed his relentless drive to clean up the government by removing from office Felipe Laurena, justice of the peace of Perez, Quezon Province, who had been convicted of grave threats. Laurena's removal from office was recommended by the district judge of Quezon and concurred in by Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason.

The composition of the Philippine delegation to the Geneva conference on Korea and Indo-China was announced by the President this day. Vice President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently secretary foreign affairs, will head the nine-man Philippine team to the Geneva talks. Others to compose the delegation will be Senate President Protempore Manuel C. Briones; Rep. Miguel Cuenco of Cebu, who is chairman of the House foreign affairs committee; Gen. Alfonso Arellano and Col. Ismael Lapuz, Armed Forces G-2 chief, for the military phase of the discussions; Jose F. Imperial, Philippine Minister to Japan; Judge Jose D. Ingles legal adviser of the Philippine Mission to the United Nations; Judge Guillermo Guevara, local legal luminary; and Atty Hilarion Corpuz. The last two members will defray their own expenses to and from Geneva and will not receive compensation.

At 12 noon, the President held a luncheon-meeting, with the Cabinet which lasted until 3:30 p. m. During the Cabinet meeting, the President mobilized the entire government machinery in an all out effort to curb the inroads of famine and disease in Cotabato and step up the drive against rats which have infested the province. Upon receiving a telegram from Gov. Abenir Bernales requesting immediate action on the “daily worsening” situation and after reading recent news reports revealing the inroads of famine in Cotabato, the President:

1. Directed Health Secretary Paulino Garcia, PNEC chairman, to ship relief food and medicines to the stricken area, offering the agency a Philippine Navy LST to transport the shipment;
2. Wired Governor Alejandro Almendras of Davao to send all surplus corn stocks immediately to Cotabato to feed the hungry population;
3. Telephoned orders to General Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff, to bolster the army force in Cotabato by an additional company to enforce strictly the injunction against profiteering issued in his proclamation declaring a state of emergency in the province;
4. Appointed a four-man committee, headed by Acting Provincial Governor Abenir Bernales, to coordinate all relief work.
5. Designated General Alfonso Arellano, PATC commanding general to fly to the province tomorrow and act as over-all supervisor of relief activities as the President’s personal representative; and
6. Prepared to fly to the province himself, as soon as the pressure of his work in Manila cases.

During the Cabinet meeting, the President unofficially declared the mambo a “national calamity.” He was telling the Cabinet of the difficulty of rousing officials and employees at the implementing levels out of their inertia, with the result that projects were not being executed as promptly and efficiently as he wanted. Citing an example, he told of the case of a provincial engineer he knew who comes to Manila periodically to take mambo lessons in a dancing school. “He dances for hours and hours and he’s so tired when he goes back to the province the next day that he can’t do any work at all,” the President said

March 25.—EARLY in the morning, the President motored to Marikorea, Marikina, Rizal, to witness the war exercises staged by the 2nd BCT scheduled to leave for Korea shortly. He was escorted by General Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff, and Col. Napoleon D. Valeriano and Capt. Pat Garcia, presidential aides. The President was greeted with 21-gun salute upon arrival in Marikina at 9:45 a. m. After inspecting an honor guard, he proceeded to the demonstration grounds to witness the two-hour war game.

Following the demonstration, the President gave a pep talk to the officers and men who participated in the sham battle. He said he was overwhelmed by what he had seen. The splendid way in which the men behaved under actual fire was indicative of their high morale, according to the President, adding that their performance was beyond his expectation. Expressing his regrets over the casualties sustained during the realistic war games; the President expressed hope that the blood of the unfortunate enlisted men will not have been spilled in vain. He said the lessons learned from the exercises would save the lives of hundreds of their comrades in an actual engagement with the enemy.

Then the President went to the first aid station where the four casualties at the exercises were being treated. He talked to the wounded and instructed General Vargas to extend all possible government assistance to the families of the four casualties.

The President and the rest of the guests at the maneuvers ate their lunch at the PEFTOK training camp. The President returned to Malacañang at 1 p.m.

In the afternoon, the President made an unexpected visit to the National Development Company and persuaded the strikers to return to work immediately for the good of the public. The striking workers agreed to resume work-immediately after formalization of the compromise agreement between the management and the union officials, including a P.05 increase in daily wages, thus ending the 11-day strike in the NDC. The President was accompanied to the NDC by Labor Secretary-designate Eleuterio Adevosio and aides.

The President ordered today the suspension of Eusebio Baes, municipal mayor of Indang, Cavite. Baes has been administratively charged with oppression, abuse of authority and serious misconduct by Clato Jesiel, vice president of the Nacionalista local directorate. Vice Mayor Primitivo Perez has been designated acting mayor of Indang. According to Jesiel Mayor Baez and 18 men conspired to prevent free elections in precincts 16 and 16-A of Indang. They prevented the board of inspectors from counting the votes, allegedly with the intention of committing frauds.

March 26.—AFTER having breakfast with some friends, the President received several callers. Dewey Smith, manager of the export division of the Studebaker Corporation, paid a courtesy visit in the course of a world inspection tour. He was accompanied by Manuel H. Barredo, head of the local Studebaker distributing agency. Other callers of the President included Senator Manuel Briones, Judge Guillermo Guevara, and a delegation composed of Camarines Norte mayors and vice mayors who consulted the Chief Executive on the building of roads and other public improvements in their province.

After receiving callers, the President motored to Camp Murphy where he was guest at the awarding of medals to Col. Andres Soriano, Judge John W. Hausserman, and Ray Higgins by the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Soriano was awarded the Gold Cross Medal for gallantry in action in Bataan during World War II when he was captain of the USAFFE serving as intelligence officer. Judge Hausserman and Ray Higgins were given the Philippine Legion of Honor (Officer), the first for his contribution to the passage of the Rogers Act by the U. S. Congress, and the latter for his work in promoting the blood bank, thus saving the lives of uncounted Filipino soldiers and civilians.

Returning to Malacañang from Camp Murphy, the President received the inter-departmental land tenure committee headed by Eligio Tavanlar. The committee gave the President a special copy of its first report on land tenure reforms. The President inducted a member of the land tenure committee, Antonio Noblejas, as chief of the General Land Registration Office.

About noon, the President left for Manila Hotel where he spoke before more than 500 Chinese businessmen at the opening day of the convention of the Chinese chambers of commerce and trade associations in the Philip pines, The President called on all Chinese in the country to help in the administration's drive against communism. He urged them to unite with the rest of the free world to fight the common enemy—communism. The threat of communism to the democracies, the President said, cannot be fought successfully if the people in the free world just fold their arms. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 1010-1012, for the full text of the President's speech.)

Later in the afternoon, the President enplaned for Naga City to address the graduates of the Nueva Caceres Colleges. He was accompanied by Senators Gil J. Puyat and Edmundo Cea and Reps. Emilio Tibble and Felix A. Fuentebella. Also with the presidential party was Camarines Sur Governor Juan Triviño.

In his commencement address, the President urged educational institutions to revise their "aims and processes" and to focus the youth's attention on "the tremendous opportunities offered by our rural areas." He asked the schools to re-emphasize the attraction of white collar jobs, and instead "to lay emphasis on the little appreciated truth that the wealth of this country is not to be found within the folds of government employment, but in the exploitation and development of rich natural resources that await the touch of the determined hand." The ultimate purpose of the people is to make their country a happy land, "strong within and respected without," the President said. To achieve this end, the people should exert all efforts to place their economy at a level of self-sufficiency. The President was introduced by Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez before the crowd estimated to be upwards of 20,000.

After the commencement exercises, the President proceeded to the library of the Nueva Caceres Colleges where a dinner, was given in his honor. In an extemporaneous after-dinner speech which lasted for 40 minutes, the

President gave a stern warning to government officials and employees not to sabotage the administration, and described what he said should be the “new look” in the government. He said that those who had been appointed by the past administration should now work as conscientiously for the new administration because, he pointed out, “one isolated case of sabotage will throw the government machinery out of gear.” The loyalty of civil servants, he said, should be to the people, not to individuals.

As regards the memorial presented by the Nacionalista provincial directorate and the Youth League of Camarines Sur, asking him to “intensify and expedite the prosecution of the culprits and felons of our past provincial administration,” the President asked: “Are you willing to testify against these alleged crooks if they are investigated?” He said he was going to send to jail everyone who committed graft and turned his back against the mandate of the people, adding he had never hesitated to fire corrupt officials. However, he explained charges should be testified to, as he could not fire government officials as a result, of mere intrigues. To do so, he said, would be wrong and undemocratic.

The President appealed to the provincial, municipal, and city officials that attended the dinner to break the inertia of “doing nothing.” He deplored the laziness of some government employees postponing action on work that could be done today. To all government officials and employees, the President said: “I demand that you give service to the people.” He added that public servants should attend to the needs of all, irrespective of social standing. “I will not forgive officials for dereliction of duty. Public office demands service to the people,” he said.

March 27.—THE PRESIDENT boarded his plane *Pagasa* at the Naga City airport about 6:50 a.m. and landed at the Nichols airfield at 8 a.m. He took a brief rest upon arriving at Malacañang.

At 11 o’clock, the President went down the Palace social hall, where he received provincial and city engineers who called to pay their respects. They were headed by Acting Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa and Public Works Director Isaias Fernando. The President told the engineers, in Manila for a convention, that he would not permit politics to undermine the Department of Public Works and Communications and assured them he would protect them from political vengeance. He said he was not concerned if some of them had spoken ill of him during the election campaign. He said they did not have to fear he was going to fire them for that. “You can forget all about that and concentrate now on what is our common task—to serve the people.” He gave warning, however, that he was not going to be tolerant about such faults as dishonesty and inefficiency. “I will not hesitate to dismiss engineers on these grounds,” he said.

Asked by the gathering about the assignment of army engineers to some districts, the President said this was being done only in places where urgent projects required heavy machinery and equipment available only to the army engineer corps, or in areas which were dangerous because of dissident and criminal activities. He suggested that the engineers draw up a standard operating procedure for the construction of artesian wells, pointing out that both public and private funds (from the “Liberty Wells” campaign) will be available for a nation-wide program of wells construction. After the President’s extemporaneous remarks which lasted for 30 minutes, the district and city engineers handed the Chief Executive a resolution pledging their support to the administration and promising their best efforts in serving the public interests.

In the afternoon, the President strolled around the Malacañang grounds and greeted some of the out-of-town visitors who came as usual in big numbers on the occasion of the weekly open house. He stopped every now and then, shaking hands and conversing with some visitors. He stopped for a while to listen to the Philippine Constabulary band playing its regular Saturday concert and asked the name of the piece being played.

From the lawn, the President proceeded to the Malacañang Press Office. Here he talked with some of the employees. He told Felix Manuel, chief Malacañang photographer, that very soon the latter would have a better dark room.

Later, the President got into a second hand ’52 Ford car and, with him at the wheel, drove around the city with his son Ramon, Jr. They were accompanied by Major Emilio Borromeo, presidential aide. The President drove around the city for about an hour “to have an airing and at the same time to relax.”

March 28.—WHILE eating breakfast, the President received reports from Brig. Gen. Alfonso Arellano, who had been dispatched to Cotabato several days ago, informing him of the worsening rat situation in that province. In a directive issued following receipt of the report, the President ordered all department secretaries to pitch in, in the current operation against rat infestation in Mindanao. General Arellano in his report described the rat problem as “serious.” He said “energetic effort” was necessary to avert impending famine and to check the spread of the infestation to other areas. The President reiterated his intention to fly to the stricken area as soon as the pressure of work in Manila eases. He said he might have to transfer temporarily the seat of his office to Mindanao and hold Cabinet meetings there in order to see the campaign through.

About 10 a.m., the President had himself treated for his persistent toothache by Major Jose D. Rodriguez, oral surgeon and prosthodontist of the V. Luna General Hospital.

At 11 a.m., the President took the First Lady and their son Ramon for a ride in a second-hand car which he has been testing before deciding to buy it. He took the wheel himself, with Mrs. Magsaysay at his side and Junior and Capt. Pat Garcia, an aide, at the back. The family drove around Manila for an hour, returning to Malacañang for lunch.

The President had lunch with visiting U. S. Lions who had come to Manila for the climax to “Operation Philippines” and with Philippine Lions officials. The guests were Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Perstein, Julian Grosliner, Mariano del Rosario, Manuel J. Gonzalez, and Senator Emmanuel Pelaez.

The President rested briefly after lunch, and at 4 p.m., went to Pier 13 for the “Operation Philippines” ceremony. He received in the name of the Philippine government \$1 million worth of farm implements donated to Filipino farmers by California and Nevada Lions. Speaking briefly at the turnover ceremonies, the President said that the turnover of the more than \$1 million worth of farm implements from the California and Nevada Lions demonstrated anew to America and the Philippines the “genuine ties of mutual respect and affection” that bind the two peoples. He said he was glad of this demonstration at this time “because there are indications of a systematic campaign to undermine the relations between our two peoples, to whip up antagonism between us.” The President referred to a news story which had appeared in this local papers “purporting to come, from Washington, which dealt with alleged American plans to barter revision of the trade act for favorable action on the bases question.” He said the story, after an investigation, was found to be “sheer and absolute fabrication.” (See pp. 1012-1014, for the full text of the President’s speech.)

Late in the afternoon, the President received some 500 members of the Philippine Chemical Society who called at Malacañang to pay their respects on the last day of their first annual convention in Manila. During the call, the President administered the oaths and distributed certificates to more than 200 licensed chemists, the first group of technicians to be granted such licenses by the board under Republic Act No. 754. After the ceremonies, the President treated his guests to a merienda of *puto*, *dinuguan*, and *tajo*.

March 29.—PRESIDENT MAGSAYSAY held a breakfast conference with party leaders to discuss trade relations with the United States. After full discussion of the subject of Philippine U. S. trade relations, the senators and representatives present expressed solid and unanimous support of the stand taken by the President relative to the request for 18-month extension of the present trade relations between the two countries. The conference agreed on the creation by the President of a Commission on Economic Policy to study the synchronization of the administration’s economic policies, including the matter of trade relations with the United States, with particular reference to their effects on the living standards and welfare of the “grass roots” or masses of the people. The conference lasted from 8 to 10:15 a.m. when the President received palace callers.

He first received the board of directors of the National Development Company whom he instructed in the course of their conference to push through plans of expanding the cottage industry as a means of relieving unemployment and bolstering the country’s economy.

The President also conferred with NARIC officials who called to submit a report on their work since their assumption of office several months ago. The report dwelt particularly on the reorganisation of the corporation to make it a more effective agency to carry out the purposes for which it had been created.

Earlier in the morning, the President went to the Palace social hall to receive a delegation of more than 200 graduating UP students who had arrived in five busses. They came to ask the President to be the guest speaker at their commencement exercises and to accept the doctorate award being offered him, by the state university. The President finally accepted the invitation for him to be commencement speaker but turned down the honorary degree. He also congratulated the students for the determination they had shown in getting what they wanted.

The President received callers up to 1 p.m. Other callers included a delegation from Laguna and Quezon headed by Governors Dominador Chipeco and Vicente Constantino, a delegation from the Reserve Officers Legion of the Philippines, and a delegation from the National Federation of Tenants and Farmers Association.

In the afternoon, the President was conferred another honorary doctorate, degree, the fifth he has received since he was honored by Fordham University in 1952, when he was still secretary, of national defense, with a degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*. The FEATI Institute of Technology honored him with a degree of Doctor of Engineering during its ninth commencement exercises.

The President arrived at the FEATI Tech quadrangle at 5 p.m., in time to join the academic procession. Mrs. Salvador Araneta read the citation conferring the honorary degree on the President, immediately after which she placed the orange-blue hood on him. Assisting her were Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta and Dean Gregorio Y. Zara. Then the President read his commencement address, the shortest he had delivered so far. It took him only six minutes to deliver.

Before delivering his address, the President told the graduates that he was going to give a short speech because, according to him technical men and engineers are not fond of long speeches. He said he knew his audience were men and women who preferred to work rather than talk. The President opened his speech saying that the degree He had just received “in a sense is the, fulfillment of a youthful ambition.” He recalled that he had started out to be an engineer, “but the strain of combining a strenuous livelihood with serious study told on my health and forced the suspension of my studies, until eventually I had to abandon engineering entirely” In his speech the President urged local engineers to help the administration to “tear down and destroy” with machines and modern inventions the “resistance to progress,” (See pp. 1014-1015, for the full text of the President’s address.)

March 30.—NUMEROUS callers kept the President busy at his study in Malacañang 1 p. m. A group of Cagayan farmers headed by Rep, Felipe Garduque called to seek protection from alleged abuses of landlords who wanted to drive them from their farms. In answer, the President picked the telephone and ordered Col. Flaviano Olivares of the 1st Military Area Headquarters at Camp Olivas, Pampanga, to dispatch an army officer to investigate the report. The President ordered the investigating officer to fly to Cagayan either this afternoon or early the next day.

The new officers of the American Chamber of Commerce called to pay their respects and to offer the services of their organization to the administration. The group was composed of Paul Parrette of the Philippine Manufacturing Company, chamber president, and members of the board of directors, namely, Paul Wood of the International Harvester, Arthur Henderson of the American Underwriters, Fred Spengle of American President Lines, Stan Lehman of Standard Vacuum, and John Oppenheimer of Pan American Airlines.

Acting LASEDECO Chairman Eligio Tavanlar saw the President in connection with his plan to “get business from the U. S. Navy and the Philippine Navy for the government shipyard in Mariveles.”

Other morning callers were: a delegation from Laguna headed by Governor Dominador Chipeco who reported on the increased collection of taxes in their province; a delegation from Nueva Ecija led by Mayor Juan Damian of Muñoz who asked for the continuation of commodity loans from the ACCFA as a way of helping cooperatives in their town; Senator Jose P. Laurel, Governor Juan Alberto of Catanduanes, and a group of Lanao leaders including Madki Alonto, Data Tamano Alonto, and Datu Natangcap Indol.

At noon, the President suspended his appointments with Malacañang callers to administer oath of office to the following: Justice Jose B. L. Reyes as presiding justice of the Court of Appeals; former Agriculture Undersecretary Jose Camus as RFC governor; and 10 members of the newly created National Agricultural Council, namely, Vicente

Araneta, Juan S. Alano, Ramon Ordoveza, Francisco Sacay, Saturnino Benito, Felix Maramba, Juan Chioco, Carlos Ledesma, Carlos Locsin, and Eligio Tavanlar.

Early in the afternoon, the President went to the office of Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., in Congress where, he conferred with NP and DP solons on the proposed national budget. After a three-hour huddle with the President, the NP solons, including the New Dealers' block, approved in principle the P10-million contingent fund for the President, and the P182-million outlay for the army. What remained to be threshed out was the form of the grant of P10-million contingent fund earmarked for aid in case of calamities.

The President returned to Malacañang at 5 p.m. when he received a delegation of officers of the Federation of Chinese Chambers of Commerce in the Philippines. The group headed by Yu Khe Thai, president of the Federation, called to hand to Manuel Elizalde, chairman of the Peace and Amelioration Fund Commission, a check for P110,000 as the Federation's contribution to the peace and amelioration, fund.

In the evening, the President issued a statement announcing the suspension of PAL's long-range international operations, to enable the company to concentrate on further development of its domestic services. The decision to suspend the international service of PAL was made by the airline's board of directors at its meeting this afternoon. The decision was forwarded to President Magsaysay, who immediately approved it. (See pp. 1015-1017, for the full text of the President's statement.)

March 31.—At 6 a.m. and without eating breakfast, the President left Malacañang for a place which even his closest assistants said they did not know. The President stayed out of the Palace the whole day. Visitors who had came to see him were told to return some other day.

At 12 noon, members of the Cabinet arrived at Malacañang for their regular luncheon meeting. At 12:30 p.m, the Cabinet members were informed that the Cabinet meeting would be presided over by Vice President Carlos P. Garcia since the President was not coming.

The Cabinet at its meeting recommended the issuance of an executive order completely prohibiting the use of public funds by local governments for the entertainment of visiting members of the Cabinet or other ranking officials of the Republic. Issuance of the order was proposed in line with the administration's commitment to use public funds strictly for official purposes. It was inspired by President Magsaysay, who has been making unannounced visits to various parts of the country since his assumption of office in his desire to spare local governments the trouble and expense which customarily attended visits by high ranking government officials.

The Cabinet also created a committee composed of Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta, as chairman, and Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa and Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, as members to study and submit recommendations on the petition of the Esguerra Estate Tenants Association of Rizal and Bulacan for the expropriation by the government of approximately 1,435,796 square meters of land acquired by the Bartolome San Diego, Inc., from the Catholic Church, situated in five municipalities of Rizal and Bulacan.

The Cabinet, moreover, designated Dr. Juan Z. Sta. Cruz to represent the Philippines at the meeting of the Council of the Union Against Cancer and at the 6th International Cancer Congress from July 21 to 29 of this year at Sao-Paulo, Brazil, without any expense to the government. Dr. Sta. Cruz is executive secretary of the cancer committee of the Department of Health.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Official Month in Review: April 1954

April 1.—SINCE HE SLIPPED out of Malacañang early in the morning the day before, President Magsaysay has not been heard from. According to Palace officials, the last time they saw him was when he boarded his car with an aide, Lt. Melchor Fronda. They did not know where he was going. They seemed to agree, however, that the President must have boarded the yacht *Pagasa* and must have decided to seclude himself there and work on pending state matters undisturbed. The Malacañang radio station could not contact the *Pagasa* the whole day. A Palace informant said the President had expected to be out of town for four days. So Palace visitors who called were told again to come back some other day.

April 2.—EARLY IN THE EVENING, word was at long last received about the whereabouts of President Magsaysay who had been missed at Malacañang for the last two days. A dispatch received at the Malacañang radio station from the yacht *Pagasa* said that the President was in Tagkawayan, Quezon Province, off Ragay Bay.

In an unannounced inspection trip to Tagkawayan, the President looked into the distribution of deforested lands to landless farmers in Quezon Province and into the peace and order situation. His trip was prompted by the visit of Tagkawayan homesteaders to Malacañang four days ago to present complaints regarding the distribution of public lands. It is estimated that about 8,000 hectares of deforested lands are available to homesteaders, with 5,000 hectares already occupied and 3,000 hectares recommended for division into agricultural homesteads by the officer in charge of the Tagkawayan forest station. The President conferred lengthily with Nilo Benitez, public lands inspector and head of the allocation investigation party of the Bureau of Lands.

The President was irked upon learning that Project 35-B, consisting of 1,823 hectares of deforested lands, had not as yet been released for homestead, although its certification as a disposable area was recommended to the Manila Office of the Bureau of Forestry on February 24, 1953. He wired the district engineer to look into this and to issue strong directives along the reclassification of this area.

The President also conferred lengthily with army officers and men stationed in Quezon Province. These sections had been infested by Huks in the past and the President did not want this area of Huk Chieftain Mariano Balgos to suffer from a resurgence of dissidence. The President told the officers to return to the unorthodox campaign of fighting Huks, making use of dogs and giving rewards to civilians.

At 6 p.m., the President left Tagkawayan for an EDCOR project scheduled to be inaugurated by him the next day.

The President was to have been the guest speaker and the recipient of the degree of Doctor of Public Health, *honoris causa*, at the commencement exercises of the Manila Central University earlier in the afternoon. Health Secretary Paulino Garcia had to pinch-hit for the President.

Late in the afternoon, the President left Quezon Province after inspecting an EDCOR project there.

April 3.—PRESIDENT MAGSAYSAY reached Masbate in the morning aboard the yacht *Pagasa*. Soon after his arrival, he left for barrio San Ramon, Uson, Masbate, where he inaugurated the 2,000-hectare Corpuz National Settlement project. The project has been named after the late Rep. Pio Corpuz of Masbate. The President inspected the project and addressed the settlers who had gathered at the community center from their respective lots. He commended the PC provincial commander, Maj. David San Juan, and the provincial forester, Florentino Versosa, for their efficient and speedy compliance with the order he had given them last January 15 to establish the settlement for the 52 prisoners he had ordered released and for other landless people of Masbate.

The President had pardoned the 52 *kaingeros* after determining that they had committed only a technical violation of the law. He discovered that the alleged forest zones where the *kaingeros* had planted their crops had been deforested many years ago but its classification as forest zone had been unchanged because of administrative inaction. However, he explained then that he would never condone actual destruction of the country's timber resources. Offenses of this nature would be severely punished, he said.

The President ordered the release of an additional 100 lots whose subdivision had been completed by army surveyors and for which landless families were filing their applications. He promised to improve the lot of the settlers further by providing them with three artesian wells, one tractor, rice subsistence to tide them over until their first harvest, and a supply of medicines to prevent the incidence of disease.

April 4.—THE PRESIDENT returned to Manila in the afternoon following a five-day trip of inspection in Southern Luzon and the Visayas. To be able to arrive in time for the National Press Club, building ceremony, the President had to leave the yacht *Pagasa* and board a helicopter. He arrived shortly after 5 p.m. at the foot of the Jones Bridge along Magallanes Drive where the ceremony was held. It was one of those rare occasions, when the presidential car bore the President's flag and the No. 1 plate. When he got off the car, the President greeted newspapermen who were seated in front of the stage waiting for his arrival. He called the newspapermen by their first names and exchanged jokes with them.

The President laid the cornerstone of the proposed building. He turned the crank which lowered the cornerstone at exactly 5:33 p.m. and then put the finishing touches by spreading cement over the slab with a silver-coated ceremonial trowel. Then he delivered a brief speech promising greater aid to newspapermen, especially those who were retiring owing to old age or disability. He said he expected that the new NPC building would eventually yield profits which would be converted into revolving funds to help families of poor newspapermen and provide them with retirement money. He praised the local press for its vigilance. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 1533–1534, for the full text of the President's speech.)

The President was also scheduled to deliver this day the main address at the opening session of the seminar held under the auspices of the UNESCO, the World Federation of United Nations Association of the Philippines. However, owing to engine failure of the yacht *Pagasa* on which he was coming to Manila, the President failed to arrive on time and his speech was read by Assistant Executive Secretary Mariano A. Yencko, Jr. In this speech, the President told the Pacific regional conference of the UNESCO that "only through education.—and the tools which it provides—can we hope to deal intelligently with the confusing issues posed by the times in which we live. . . ." "It is necessary" he said, "that we should be able to deal adequately with such issues; to see through half-truths and evasions; to recognize the deliberate lies and falsehoods fashioned by men of ill-will and little faith. Education must provide the answer." (See pp. 1531–1533, for the full text of the President's speech.)

General Manager Vicente Fragante of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation was suspended upon orders of the President pending determination of the charges against him. The order of suspension was served on the eve of Fragante's automatic retirement from the government service. The order for immediate suspension was issued by the President upon the recommendation of the PHHC investigating committee. Among others, Fragante has been charged of discrimination and favoritism, "either through negligence or design" on his part, in the allotment of the lots and concessions of the PHHC.

In the evening, the President was also scheduled to speak at the commencement exercises of the Philippine College of Commerce. Since he could not attend the affair, he asked Education Secretary Pastor M. Endencia to pinch-hit for him. In this speech read by Secretary Endencia, the President explained the significance of the "performance budget" with reference to fulfilling the requirements of the administration's objective of serving the "deepest and most urgent needs of our people." Since the new government plans to give tangible services to the people, it will operate better under a budgetary system known as the "performance budget," the President said. "When the government starts accounting for its expenditures, I hope we shall be able to point with pride to miles and miles of new roads and highways; to newly cleared lands and thriving barrios; to efficient water works and irrigation systems; to flourishing industries—and say, "This is where your money went," the President added.

April 5.—IN THE MORNING, the President conferred with Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro over pending state papers. Then he went over the drafts of the speech he was to deliver before the sugar convention.

At 10 a.m., after receiving a number of callers at the Palace, the President crossed to the Malacañang Park to address the opening session of the First National Congress of the Sugar Industry. He told the delegates to the national congress that as long as the industry continued to work for the welfare of the people, "my administration is pledged

to help you.” He said: “You may assume that my administration will not desert the sugar industry. To do so, would be practically deserting our national welfare.” The President expressed satisfaction over the unity of the sugarcane planters and millers. He predicted that if all the industries of the country would only unite like the sugar men, the national problems today would be much easier to solve.

The President was ferried across the Pasig River from Malacañang. He was met at the Malacañang Park landing by Manuel Elizalde, president of the Philippine Sugar Association and co-chairman of the plenary session of the sugar congress, Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, and other officials of the first national congress. The President was given a standing ovation by the delegates to the convention as he entered the Malacañang Park recreation hall, where the convention was held.

At 2 p.m., the President, accompanied by his aide, Maj. Emilio Borromeo, took off in a Cessna plane for Nueva Ecija. He landed at the Balok airfield from where he motored to Guimba, where he addressed the graduates of the training school established by the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM). At the airfield, the President was greeted by Nueva Ecija officials headed by Gov. Leopoldo Diaz.

April 6.—FOLLOWING A BREAKFAST conference with Brig. Gen. Alfonso Arellano, the President directed all agencies of the government participating in the anti-rat campaign in Cotabato to coordinate their activities with the army task force operating in that region under the command of Col. Luis Franco of the 4th Military Area. Arellano returned to Manila Monday night from Cotabato, where he directed the campaign for 11 days as personal representative of the President. He called at Malacañang early in the morning to report to the President on the situation in the rat-infested province. The conference which lasted from 7:30 to 9 a.m., was attended by Maj. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Brig. Gen. Eulogio Balao, Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez, Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro, and Social Welfare Administrator Pacita Madrigal Warns.

After the breakfast huddle, the President went to the second floor of the Executive Office Building where he inspected the offices there. He went one room to another and asked the officials and employees how they found their work in the Executive Office. He visited first the law division and then the civil affairs division.

The President this day issued Executive Order No 22, prohibiting the use of trawlers in San Miguel Bay in order to protect the municipal fisheries of both Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur and to conserve fish and other aquatic resources in that area. The issuance of the order was prompted by a recommendation of Camarines Sur Gov. Juan F. Triviño, who revealed that the bay’s resources were being depleted by constant trawling operations by private fishing boats.

President Magsaysay also issued Proclamation No. 13, decreeing daylight savings time for the summer session effective midnight of Sunday, April 11, until midnight of June 30. The proclamation says daylight savings time is being decreed “in order that officers, employees, and laborers of the government may be afforded sunlight for work and recreational purposes after office hours to effect savings in the use of light both to the government and the general public.”

Later in the morning, the President issued a directive to Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa telling the latter to see to it that all public works be operated on a three-shift daily basis, to see to it that all public works projects be worked on 24 hours a day. The President wants that all public works be finished in record time. He said electric lights would be installed for laborers working at night. The directive was issued following a conference with Mayor Alfonso Espino of Dingle, Iloilo, who reported to the President on the progress of the P7-million Jaluar River irrigation project in his municipality.

A delegation of shipping men called on the President to ask for government support for the improvement of the local shipping business. Among those in the delegation were: James Chiongbian of the Williams Lines, Maj. Generoso Tanseco of the Benigno del Rio and the Olabarrieta shipping firms, and Norberto Quisumbing of the Oriental Shipping.

The President also received the delegation of the Asturias Sugar Planters Association from Iloilo and Capiz. The group informed the President of the association's desire to buy the Philippine Railway Company in Panay, which is now owned by the RFC. The President told the group to see the RFC about their plan.

Other callers were Gov. Wenceslao Pascual of Rizal, who saw the President concerning problems affecting his province, and a group of Manila squatters who sought the President's intervention in their cases.

Toward noon, the President continued his inspection of the Malacañang executive offices. He went down the ground floor where he inspected the PCAC office. Here he talked with several people who called at Malacañang to present their complaints.

The President lunched shortly past noon. In the afternoon, he motored to Diliman where he delivered the principal address at the commencement exercises of the University of the Philippines. He left Malacañang at 4 p.m., accompanied by the First Lady; Dr. Vidal A. Tan, president of the U. P.; and two presidential aides, Col. Napoleon D. Valeriano and Capt. Pat Garcia. The presidential car, bearing the President's flag and plate No 1, pulled up at the curb circling the "Oblacion" monument in front of the U. P. Administration Building at 5 p.m., to the roar of a 21-gun salute fired by a crack unit of the U. P. ROTC cadets. After the flourishes and the playing of the national anthem, the President inspected a select company of U. P. cadets.

In his commencement address which lasted from 7:35 to 7:52 p.m., President Magsaysay stressed that the Philippines at present needs tried and true friends. He urged the people to concentrate and organize "all our abilities into a political effort" for the country's survival. He observed that the government's plan of economic development "is a step in the right direction." But he added that much work must go into the realization of the administration's plans and that "progress will not be immediate or spectacular." It will take all the people's skill and ingenuity as a people, and it will also take "a high sense of community responsibility," he pointed out. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 1534–1538, for the full text of the President's address.)

Malacañang announced that, beginning with the April issue, the *Official Gazette* will come out in the first week of the month following the date of its publication. This means that this April issue will be out in the first week of May. Malacañang officials, after a conference with Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro, agreed on procedures to speed up the transmittal of official papers to the *Official Gazette* to insure that this monthly periodical comes out on time, in order not to delay the effectivity of Department executive and administrative orders and proclamations.

April 7.—THE PRESIDENT held a breakfast conference with Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently secretary of foreign affairs, who saw him on the reparations question with Japan. Garcia submitted for consideration the names of those who will compose the panel which will represent the Philippines in formal negotiations that may follow his scheduled meeting with the Japanese Minister this day or the next day, in case the new Japanese offer proves acceptable to the Philippine government. The Vice-President also reported on the latest developments regarding the Bell Trade Act.

Following the breakfast conference, the President received Fritz Zelesny, manager of the overseas division of the Juan Ismael and Co., Inc., local distributors of Emerson radios and phonographs. Zelesny donated 100 battery-operated radio receiving sets for the use of settlement farms.

Before noon, the President received the inter-departmental committee on land tenure headed by Eligio Tavanlar. The committee submitted its second progress report to the President, asking that the Central Bank lower its bank shares from P100 to P10 so that even poor farmers could buy shares and be benefited. The President discussed with the committee the possibility of extending Philippine National Bank and Postal Savings Bank loans to farmers.

The President also received Mayor Alfonso Tabora of Baguio and the members of the committee that made the survey of Baguio's service facilities. They took up with the President the establishment of better telephone and electric facilities in the summer capital.

Among other callers were: a group of mayors and councilors from Laguna headed by Rep. Wenceslao Lagumbay; a delegation of Albay labor leaders headed by Rep. Pio Duran, who came to endorse the appointment of Terry Adevosos as labor secretary; a group of Nueva Vizcaya mayors led by Gov. Jose Madarang; and some senators, representatives, and governors.

Upon the recommendation of the committee investigating the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation, the President suspended Eduardo P. Gosiengfiao, assistant to the manager, and removed Juan J. Carlos from the PHHC board of directors. The committee also recommended the suspension of PHHC Auditor Hugodino Cosin Lim, but as this can only be done by the Auditor General, Malacañang forwarded the group's findings and recommendation on Lim to the General Auditing Office for whatever action it may wish to take.

Lim has been accused of dereliction of duty for allegedly approving illegal advance payments made to the Alto Pipe and Foundry Company for overstocks of pipe fittings purchased by the PHHC from that firm. Carlos has been charged with negligence and failure to protect the PHHC's interests by voting to approve a questionable transaction while he was a board member under the old administration. Ambrosio T. Dollete committee chairman, declined to elaborate on the circumstances of the bribery case against Gosiengfiao, saying they will be fully set down in the complaint to be turned over to the special prosecutor immediately upon the latter's appointment.

Malacañang announced that Col. Leoncio Tan had been returned to the AFP and that Maj. Jose Lucban had been designated to replace him as director of the National Bureau of Investigation. Tan was returned to his post as AFP deputy chief of staff on the urgent request of General Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff, to relieve congestion of work that had resulted from Tan's detail with the NBI.

The President was so busy with other pressing business that he asked Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia to preside over the regular meeting of the Cabinet. The Cabinet approved a proposal of Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro for effecting continuity of service among the various departments during the summer months because of the half-day sessions. The department secretaries were requested to assign certain personnel in their offices to keep their respective departments always available for contact or consultation by the Executive Office on urgent official matters. Among others, the Cabinet also approved the designation of Acting Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa as chairman of the Quezon Memorial Committee, with NPC Manager Filemon C. Rodriguez and Ramon Rocas as vice chairman and member of the committee, respectively.

The Cabinet also took up the immediate resettlement of squatters in the Blumentritt area who were scheduled to be ejected by Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson on June 30. A committee headed by Economic Coordination Administrator Sotero Cabahug with Acting Public Works Secretary Orosa, Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevosos, and Social Welfare Administrator Pacita Madrigal Warns as members, was created to look immediately for a suitable site for the squatters. The squatters have been delaying FOA construction in the Blumentritt area, according to Mayor Lacson.

The Cabinet devoted most of its time to taking up the anti-rat campaign in Cotabato. At the meeting, Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta reported that about 400,000 rats were now being exterminated every week in Cotabato. Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez reported at the meeting that P2 million would be made available by the government for the purchase of palay seeds and other relief commodities for rat-infested Cotabato as soon as a workable plan for the utilization and distribution of the amount was ready.

President Magsaysay quietly slipped out of Malacañang again in the afternoon. Malacañang assistants did not know where he had gone, but it was held probable that he boarded the yacht *Pagasa*. When the President left, he took with him big piles of pending papers.

April 8.—SHORTLY AFTER BREAKFAST, the President started working on pending papers aboard the yacht *Pagasa*. He spent the whole day aboard the yacht. After lunch, he continued working on state papers until 4 p.m., when he left the yacht and returned to Malacañang.

At 5:30 p.m., the President rang up Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo, his special personal representative to the United States, by transoceanic telephone and requested him to send him a detailed report on the U. S. proposals for a Pacific

Treaty Organization (PATO). He asked Ambassador Romulo to wire immediately a detailed report on the nature and extent of the U. S. proposals. At the same time, the President set a conference for Sunday night (April 11) at Baguio with leaders of both houses of Congress and the chairman and members of their respective foreign affairs and defense committees. Romulo's report presumably will serve as a basis for Sunday's meeting.

Late in the afternoon, the President addressed some 200 college students at Malacañang and praised the youth and students of today for their new vision and outlook in voluntarily offering their services to help the government solve some of its grave problems. Most of the students were members of the Mindanao Students Association. They called on the President before leaving for home to help in the rat-extermination campaign in Cotabato. They were accompanied to Malacañang by Senators Tomas Cabili and Emmanuel Pelaez; Reps. Roseller T. Lim, Domocao Aloto, Reynaldo Honrado, and Ismael Veloso, and Gov. Alejandro Almendras, all from Mindanao.

In his brief remarks, the President said: "I am happy and proud that you have volunteered your services in helping the government in its anti-rat campaign in Mindanao. This is a concrete and tangible example of the new vision that our youth of today possess. I hope that it will serve as a good example to others." The President said that with the aid of everybody, "the rats cannot defeat the citizens of this country."

In the presence of the students, the President signed Executive Order No. 24, creating the Consultative Council of Students. Then he inducted the members of the Council which was composed of a chairman and 16 members. The Council was created to enable students to participate in public affairs. Those who took their oath were: Rafael Salas, chairman; Benjamin Alcantara, Oliver Amorin, Luis Ballesteros, Simeon Bonzon, Ignacio Debuque, Jr., Melchisedec Ibañez, Leonardo Ignacio, Estelita Juco, Jose Manglicmot, Antonio Nebrida, Miguel Paala, Jose Palarca, Jr., Rafael Panganiban, Enrique Santos, Ifor Solidum, and Pura Tiaco.

After the oath-taking ceremony, the students were entertained at a *salabat* party, complete with *puto*, *palitaw*, and other native delicacies.

Earlier, the President received officials of the League of Provincial Governors and City Mayors, who called to pay their respects. Those who called on the President were: Gov. Decoroso Rosales, president; Mayor Jose V. Rodriguez, vice-president; Gov. Wenceslao Pascual, secretary; Gov. Rafael Lazatin, treasurer; Governors Juan Trivino, Paciencia Ysalina, and Serapio Datoc; and Mayors Dominador Jover and Justiniano Borja. Gov. Adelmo Q. Camacho of Bataan also called on the President to consult on matters affecting his province.

In the evening, the President received NEC Chairman Filemon C. Rodriguez, Col. Osmundo Mondoñedo, and Col. Harry Brenn, FAO chief.

April 9.—PRESIDENT MAGSAYSAY pushed on his clean-up campaign by dismissing this day Justice of the Peace Jose Esguerra of Pasacao, Camarines Sur, for inefficiency, partiality, and corruption. The charges against Esguerra were investigated by the district judge who found them substantiated and recommend the JP's dismissal from the service. Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason concurred in the recommendation.

The President received in the morning only a few callers who included Dindo Gonzalez, chairman of the board of directors of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, and Ben Gaston, manager of the LASEDECO. The President lunched with Dindo Gonzalez.

At 2 p.m., accompanied by his aide, Maj. Emilio Borromeo, the President left for the Nichols airfield, where he boarded a Cessna plane which took him to Bataan. The President landed at the airstrip of the 18th BCT near Balanga, where he boarded a car for Mt. Samat Cemetery. This lonely spot, which 12 years ago was the scene of a bitter battle, formed this afternoon the center of a nation-wide celebration commemorating the 12th anniversary of the Fall of Bataan to the Japanese invaders. The President led thousands in pilgrimage to the burying grounds of Bataan heroes with a pledge to keep the country "secure against all internal and external threats to prevent another Bataan in our time." The President, together with American Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance, headed 18 civic organizations in laying wreaths at Mount Samat Cemetery in honor of the heroes who died in Bataan.

A pilgrimage made by about 10,000 war widows, veterans, and orphans from all over the country and local residents sweated it out under the hot April sun to witness a one-hour program held in honor of the memory of their fallen countrymen. Addressing the pilgrims, President Magsaysay warned that the fresh outbreak of Communist activity in neighboring countries underscores the need for vigilance lest complacency prove fatal.

“Three months ago, we said that our first and principal concern was the security of the nation,” the President said. “Nothing has changed in our situation since then. The same urgency prevails. If we repeat this now, it is only to emphasize the necessity for adequate solutions as it lies in our powers to make them,” he said.

The President emphasized that Bataan has taught the Filipinos a very stern lesson, that it would be foolish to remain complacent against our enemies, potential or actual. He urged that efforts be exerted to strengthen local defenses. He said: “It is my grave responsibility, as chief executive, to see to it that the State is kept secure against all internal and external threats. I mean to discharge this responsibility with energy and decision.” He added: “We stress this struggle for internal and external security because it is undeniably a part of the trust we have inherited from the defenders of Bataan.” (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 1538–1539, for the full text of the President’s speech.)

The ceremonies over, the President motored back to the 18th BCT airstrip, where he boarded his plane and flew back to Manila.

April 10.—THE PRESIDENT held an early morning conference with Col. Bernard Anderson, executive of the Philippine Air Lines who called to report on the current reorganization of the firm in view of the suspension of its international division. Anderson also consulted the President on problems of the company in connection with its plan to improve and expand its domestic service.

Following the conference which was held at his private study from 8 to 8:30 a.m., the President proceeded to his office at the Executive Office Building to receive other callers. A delegation of tenants from Santiago, Isabela, headed by Rep. Samuel Reyes and former Gov. Silvino Gumpal, called to request the expropriation of some 33 hectares of private land presently occupied by some 170 families being ejected by the owners. Another group composed of teachers from San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte, headed by Vicente A. Lazo, district supervisor, submitted a resolution seeking financial assistance for the construction and repair of school buildings.

Other callers included Sen. Mariano J. Cuenco; Mayor Cosme Cahilbil of Plaridel, Misamis Occidental; Francisco Esteban, a personal friend of the President from Isabela, Negros Occidental; Leonardo Alfuentes, vice-president of the United Disabled Veterans Association of the Philippines; and Mayor A. Dumapias of Dimiao, Bohol.

The President issued Administrative Order No. 20, coordinating the rat-extermination activities of all government agencies in Cotabato under the supervision of a task force of the armed forces in that province. The order formalized the President’s previous directive ordering the government agencies engaged in the anti-rat campaign in Cotabato to coordinate their work under the command of Col. Luis Franco of the 4th Military Area. The President also issued Executive Order No. 23, providing an award of P100,000 for the best method of eradicating rats by means of micro-organisms not dangerous to men, animals, and plants.

In the afternoon, the President motored to Pier 5, where he personally supervised the loading of supplies and equipment on the second LST for rat-infested Cotabato. Some 200 students, 120 enlisted men, and five officers will sail on the LST the next day to help in the all-out campaign of the government to exterminate rats in that region. Most of the students belong to the Mindanao Students Association. They called on the President on April 8 and offered their services to help in the rat-extermination campaign.

April 11.—AFTER HEARING MASS early in the morning, the President held a breakfast conference with Sen. Lorenzo Sumulong. No announcement was made on what had been taken up at this conference.

Later, the President motored to Camp Murphy, where he conferred with the general staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The President was briefed on the overall situation in Indo-China and how this would affect the security

of the Philippines. He was given a fill-in on the progress of the Indo-China conflict, how it has grown into its present crises, and its inevitable effects on the whole of Southeast Asian countries including the Philippines, Indonesia, India, Burma, Thailand, and Malaya.

Meeting newsmen at Camp Murphy, the President announced his last-minute decision to enplane for Baguio to continue with the conference with congressional leaders over the Asia situation. Previously, the President had postponed the Baguio confab so that all concerned would have enough time to acquaint themselves first with the situation.

The President enplaned for Baguio shortly after the Camp Murphy confab. He arrived in the Pines City at 2 p.m.

At 4:30 p.m., the President held a conference at the Mansion House with congressional leaders. Administration and congressional leaders agreed in this conference that the Indo-China war had posed "a crises" affecting Philippine security. They called on the President to make immediate arrangements with the United States for a full implementation of the mutual defense treaty which considers an attack on one an attack on another. The agreement was reached after the officials had been briefed for over two hours by General Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff, and other officers of the armed forces general staff, on the possible effects of the Indo-China conflict on Philippine defenses. The conference was attended by key members of the Senate committees on foreign relation and military affairs and the House committees on foreign affairs and national defense. The conference ended at 6:30 p.m.

In the evening, the President entertained some guests at the Guest House.

April 12.—UPON RETURNING to Manila from Baguio in the morning, the President took immediate remedial measures to redeem the deteriorating peace and order situation in Cavite. He was shocked to learn of the brutal murder of Mrs. Damiana Ongkiko, kidnapped for ransom some 37 days ago. He directed General Jesus Vargas to dispatch immediately the 7th BCT to Cavite, and designated Maj. Laureano Marana as the new commanding officer of the 7th BCT. At the same time, the President directed Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason to send crack investigators to Cavite to work with the fiscals and the constabulary in the swift apprehension and prosecution of criminals in that province. The President arrived at the Nichols airbase at 9:45 a.m. aboard his plane *Pagasa*.

The President also sent a directive to Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason to expedite action on the pending case against Ildefonso Yap, president of the Philippine Harvardian Colleges, filed against him by the then Director of private Schools Manuel L. Carreon. Dr. Carreon filed charges against Yap for having assaulted a person in authority. Yap assaulted Carreon in the latter's office, for he was apparently angered by Carreon's unfavorable recommendation on a petition which he filed with the Department of Education to convert the Philippine Harvardian Colleges into a university. Yap's petition was turned down by the Secretary of Education in view of the unfavorable recommendation of Carreon. Yap appealed the decision to Malacañang, which created a committee to review the case. The committee confirmed the original decision.

To clarify and define discussions arising from the situation in Indo-China as it affects the Philippines, the President authorized the issuance of the following official position as of this date:

1. In a statement issued on April 10, 1954, the President declared that his administration, being committed to the principle of collective security, was prepared to accept in principle the association of this government with the governments of other free nations in a common declaration opposing further Communist aggression in Southeast Asia, such association being subject to mutual agreement on details. This statement has not been modified. However, talks of expanding the Armed Forces of the Philippines or of committing any of its elements to the Indo-China theater, is without foundation.
2. The Philippine government has no official information at this time that the United States seeks to organize a Pacific treaty organization similar to the NATO. This has only been speculated upon by press dispatches from Washington, and discussion of Philippine participation in such a pact has been, therefore, wholly theoretical and conjectural.

The President cancelled all appointments in order to be able to rest. In the afternoon, he boarded his second-hand Ford convertible and went for a ride around Manila. Having just come from Baguio, he must have felt uncomfortable with the heat in Manila. He visited the house of a friend before returning to Malacañang for dinner.

Later in the evening, the President attended the premiere of a passion play, *Martir sa Golgota*, staged by the Dramatic Philippines at the Manila Grand Opera House.

April 13.—EARLY IN THE MORNING, the President left Malacañang and boarded his yacht *Pagasa* for a much needed rest. Many visitors called at Malacañang to see the President but for some time no one could tell where the President was.

Among Malacañang callers was a delegation from Alcala, Pangasinan, who came to report the existence of rat infestation in their province. According to Geraldo del Rosario, head of the group, the rats have been laying waste farms and ricefields, and unless the government do something about it, the situation in Pangasinan would be as serious as that in Cotabato.

April 14.—DESPITE President Magsaysay's absence, Malacañang swarmed with visitors who wanted to see him. In the morning, delegations of boy scouts from Japan and Ceylon called to pay their respects to the President. Since the President was out, the delegations were received by Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro. The visitors were accompanied to Malacañang by Enrique Lolarga, boy scout jamboree camp chief; Guillermo Padolina, executive coordinator; Getulio Reantaso, reception coordinator; and Jaime Nerio. The Japanese group presented to Executive Secretary Castro a gift for President Magsaysay. The boy scout delegations came to the Philippines to attend the first national jamboree of boy scouts to be held at Balara, Quezon City, on April 23–30.

The President, who was on board the yacht *Pagasa* on his way to visit his town, Castillejos, Zambales, sent the following message to Sen. Fernando Lopez.

“Sincerest felicitations and best wishes with prayer that Almighty grant you many more years in dedicated unselfish and honest service to our people especially suffering masses for whom you have shown most devoted solicitude throughout your public career. Mrs. Magsaysay joins me in these sentiments.”

Malacañang announced in the evening that President Magsaysay had informed the Japanese government that Shozo Murata is acceptable to the Philippines as Japan's chief negotiator in reparations talks here.

April 15.—

April 16.—THE PRESIDENT and his family spent Maundy Thursday and Good Friday in Castillejos, Zambales. The several callers and newsmen who loitered at Malacañang were baffled by the same query which had been baffling them for the last two days: “Where is the President?”

Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently secretary of foreign affairs, called at Malacañang at 5 p.m. of Good Friday to see the President and to receive, in a manner of speaking, the President's “last word” on what the Philippine delegations should do at the Geneva world conference. The Vice-President waited for the President at Malacañang until 8 p.m. He was most anxious to see the President, because he was scheduled to leave for Geneva at 8 a.m. the next day to head the Philippine delegation to the forthcoming Geneva conference.

The President arrived late at night from Castillejos, Zambales, where he spent the holiday. Upon arrival, he went directly to the residence of Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia and was briefed by the Foreign Affairs Secretary on the Japanese reparations proposal. No official stand of the President on the reparations question was released after the briefing.

April 17.—FORMAL PRESENTATION of the official Japanese offer was made by Ambassador Shozo Murata, chief delegate of the Japanese panel on reparations, at ceremonies held at 7:30 a.m. at the Malacañang Council of

State room. Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia declared after the ceremonies that formal negotiations for the settlement of the reparations question between the Philippines and Japan had been opened. Murata was accompanied at the ceremonies by the entire Japanese delegation while Garcia was flanked by his foreign office staff, composed of Undersecretary Leon Ma. Guerrero and Counsellors Mauro Calingo, Jose Alejandrino, and Caesar Lanuza.

President Magsaysay did not attend the ceremonies, for before most of the Palace household had got up from bed, he boarded his car and motored to Nichols airfield where he boarded his plane *Pagasa* at 5:30 a.m. for Baguio. The President was accompanied by his aide, Maj. Emilio Borromeo.

Upon arrival in the Pines City at 6:20 a.m., the President motored direct to the Guest House and had a hurried breakfast with his family. Then he motored to the house of Senator Jose P. Laurel. The President and Sen. Laurel went into an hour-long huddle during which the Chief Executive offered the Batangas Senator the chairmanship of the Philippine panel that will discuss with Japanese negotiators the thickish reparations issue. The President appealed to Sen. Laurel's patriotism in offering him the chairmanship of the Philippine panel. Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Leon Ma. Guerrero was designated vice chairman of the Philippine panel, with the following as members: Senators Francisco A. Delgado, Lorenzo Sumulong, Lorenzo M. Tañada, Quintin Paredes; Representatives Daniel Z. Romualdez, Godofredo P. Ramos, Carlos Hilado, and Diosdado Macapagal; and NEC Chairman Filemon C. Rodriguez, Dean Vicente Sinco, Daniel Aguinaldo, and P. E. Domingo.

The President had previously created a subcommittee from the Armed Forces of the Philippines composed of Brig. Gen. Alfonso Arellano, chairman; Brig. Gen. Pelagio A. Cruz (PAF), vice chairman; and Col. Leoncio Tan, Capt. Rafael Pargas (PN), Col. Manuel Salientes, and Col. Jacinto Gavino—members. This committee had been deep in work preparing the ground for future talks between the Philippine and the American representatives on the implementation of the Philippine-American mutual defense pact. This subcommittee, the President said, will submit its report to the Philippine committee itself as soon as the latter is appointed.

The President also nominated this day Felino Neri as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary at large. Neri is scheduled to fly to Geneva on April 24 with some more members of the Philippine panel to the Geneva conference to join Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia and his party.

The President lunched with his family at the Guest House and then retired for a brief nap. At 3:40 p.m., the Chief Executive took off at Loakan airfield for Manila, arriving at Malacañang about 4:30 p.m. At 6:30 p.m., following a conference with Press Secretary J. V. Cruz, the President left Malacañang for a haircut.

April 18.—PRESIDENT MAGSAYSAY heard Easter Sunday mass at the Malacañang chapel. After the mass, he had breakfast with Lt. Col. Nicolas Ortega, chief of the chaplain corps, who had said the mass.

About 10 a.m., the President retired to his private study where he received the 2nd MA officers whom he had summoned for a conference. Headed by Col. Nicanor Velarde, area commander, the group was composed of Lt. Col. Faustino Sebastian, G-3; Lt. Col. Fidel Reyes, Cavite provincial commander; and Maj. Laureano Marana, commander of the task force assigned to Cavite, made up of elements from the constabulary and from the 7th and the 4th BCT's of the army. The group recommended the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus* in Cavite to make more effective the current campaign against lawlessness and violence in the province.

Other recommendations submitted by Col. Velarde to the President in the current campaign to rid Cavite of lawless elements included:

1. Placing of Cavite's police forces under constabulary control;
2. Weeding out policemen with criminal records;
3. Payment of rewards to persons who capture or give information leading to the capture of notorious characters; and

4. Assignment of a special prosecutor in Cavite.

About 12 noon, the President motored to the nearby residence of Dr. Jose Corpus, his brother-in-law and personal physician, to attend a quiet family luncheon in honor of his mother, Mrs. Perfecta del Fierro Magsaysay, who was celebrating her 67th birthday.

About 1 p.m., the President returned to his office and resumed work on pending state papers.

The President ordered the Central Bank to suspend action on the dollar allocation to Demetrio Muñoz pending probe of the report that Muñoz had allegedly solicited Malacañang help in getting the allocation. The President was visibly irked when he was informed that Muñoz had been spreading the report that a Malacañang man had helped him obtain dollar allocation. The President ordered an investigation of this report to find out who was the Malacañang official allegedly involved. He said that if it was true that the official had interceded for Muñoz, the official would be dealt with severely.

Malacañang announced in the afternoon that Hilarion Corpus was not a member of the Philippine delegation to the UN Far Eastern conference in Geneva headed by Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia. The appointment of Corpus as member of the delegation was withdrawn by the President three days before the Philippine delegation left April 17, and if Corpus had left with the group, he did so as a private citizen, the announcement said. Corpus will be replaced in the panel by Felino Neri, newly nominated envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary at large.

The President issued a statement in the evening saying that he was in favor of an Asian anti-Red alliance, provided it had all the military guarantees of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). He also said that he agrees in principle with the U. S. proposal for democratic countries to issue a joint declaration against communist aggression in Indo-China. He set two conditions, however, under which the Philippines could support U. S. proposal for a Pacific Treaty Organization; namely, (1) that the rights of Asian nations to self-determination be respected and (2) that in case of attack from outside, the Philippines be extended full guarantee of United States assistance under the Mutual Defense Pact. The President made the statement as an affirmative answer to U. S. Secretary John Foster Dulles' invitation to free countries to make a joint declaration against Red China aggression in Indo-China. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp 1539–1540, for the full text of the President's policy statement.)

April 19.—DURING HIS breakfast conference with Father William F. Masterson, director of the Ateneo de Cagayan agricultural school, and Father James J. McMahon, rector of Ateneo de Manila, the President urged that more emphasis be given to agricultural training in education and that attention also be directed to the task of fostering in the youth a new attitude toward farming as a vocation. The President invited the Jesuit fathers to discuss with them his ideas on agricultural education and to encourage the fullest development of the school of agriculture of the Ateneo de Cagayan (in Cagayan de Oro City).

After the breakfast conference, the President conferred with Col. Salvador Villa, manager of the Manila Railroad, over the proposed improvement of the MRR. Villa submitted to the President report and recommendations on the proposed improvement of the railroad.

The President instructed the Philippine Constabulary to expedite its investigation of the alleged involvement of Caloocan policemen led by Chief Fernando Chaingan in the Philippine Confectionary Company strike and to submit its findings to him as soon as possible. The President gave the instructions after receiving a report from Acting Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevosio denouncing the Caloocan police force and recommending Chaingan's suspension. The President said that if it should be substantiated that Maj. Chaingan and his policemen had inflicted violence on picketeers, including women, he would take drastic action against them. "The right to picket is one of the most sacred rights of Labors," the President said, "and no government authority has any business violating that right with impunity."

The President also directed the Bureau of Lands to allocate lands for fishponds to landless people and not to rich people who had been applying for them. The Chief Executive issued this order after he had been informed that there has been a big increase in the number of approved land patents since the change of administration.

In another directive sent out through Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro in separate communications to General Jesus Vargas and Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, the President ordered the placing of all municipal police forces in the entire province of Cavite under PC control and the immediate assignment of two special prosecutors to the province to study the evidence gathered and the possible court action against apprehended bandits, particularly the suspects in the kidnap-slaying of Mrs. Damiana Ongkiko. The President's action were in line with the recommendations submitted to him by 2nd MA authorities during a conference last Sunday morning on the peace and order situation in Cavite. The recommendation for the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus* is still under study.

Malacañang callers this day included Rep. Jacobo Gonzales of Laguna, Rizal Gov. Wenceslao Pascual, NPC General Manager Filemon C. Rodriguez, and Rizal Board Members Amado C. Gervacio and Vicente Javier.

In the afternoon, the President left Malacañang for an undisclosed place. In the evening, he awarded the prizes in the Interport Regatta at a ceremony held at the Manila Yacht Club.

April 20.—THE PRESIDENT held a breakfast conference with several congressional leaders and members of the Cabinet over matters affecting the Manila Railroad Company. In the conference which lasted from 8 to 9:30 a.m., it was agreed to authorize the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation to buy the rights of British bond-holders on the MRR. Worth P42 million, the British bond-holdings will be acquired by the RFC for P26 million as a result of negotiations made by the President through Governor Miguel Cuaderno of the Central Bank and Minister Jose Romero, who had contacted the British financiers in London. It was also agreed during the conference that the MRR should decrease its operating expenses and increase its revenue with the view to balancing its budget as soon as possible. Unless this was done, it was felt that any plan to rehabilitate the company and expand its service would be foolhardy, considering the limited finances of the government.

Following the conference held at the Malacañang dining room, the President proceeded to his office at the Executive Building, where he worked on some pending state papers until 10:30 a.m., when he began receiving callers. Former Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Felino Neri, newly named minister-at-large and Philippine delegate to the Geneva conference, called to receive presidential instructions before leaving for Geneva the next day. Maj. David San Juan, Masbate provincial commander, also called to report on the progress of the work on the settlement farm set up in Masbate for the 52 *kaingero* prisoners pardoned by the President on his first visit there. Maj. San Juan was accompanied by Gen. Jesus Vargas, who reported on the peace and order situation in the country.

Later, the Japanese boxing team which will participate in the Second Asian Games in Manila called to pay their respects. They were accompanied to Malacañang by a battery of Japanese newspaper photographers.

The President this day completed the membership of the revamped National Economic Council. The President designated the following as acting members of the NEC: Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta, Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, Acting Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa, Acting Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevos, Economic Coordination Administrator Sotero Cabahug, Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Leon Ma. Guerrero, MRR Board of Directors Chairman Andres O. Hizon, and Alfonso Calalang. Filemon C. Rodriguez, general manager of the National Power Corporation, had been previously appointed chairman of the NEC, while Miguel Cuaderno, Sr., Central Bank governor, remains as member.

The President issued Executive Order No. 26, reconstituting the membership of the Quezon Memorial Committee to take charge of the nationwide campaign to raise funds for the erection of a national monument in honor of the late President Manuel L. Quezon. According to this executive order, the reconstituted Quezon Memorial Committee shall be composed of the following: Vicente Orosa, chairman; Filemon C. Rodriguez and Ramon Rocas, vice-chairman; and Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, Education Secretary Pastor M. Endencia, Acting Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevos, Jorge B. Vargas, the president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce, the president of the National Federation of Women's Clubs of the Philippines, the president of the Manila Rotary Club, the president of the Jaycees, the president of the Manila Lions, National Treasurer Vicente Gella, and Eugenio Puyat, members.

The President also issued Executive Order No. 27 to formalize a previous directive prohibiting the use of public funds for the entertainment of visiting officials, and the collection of contributions from government officials and employees to be used for this purpose. According to Executive Order No. 27, past experience had shown that expenses by local governments for the entertainment of inspecting or visiting members of the Cabinet or other ranking government officials oftentimes drained local government finances.

At 5 p.m., the President left Malacañang for some undisclosed place.

April 21.—THE PRESIDENT had breakfast conference with Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro and Press Secretary J. V. Cruz.

After breakfast, the President summoned to Malacañang Japanese Ambassador Shozo Murata to seek a clarification of the Japanese reparations offer of “services” and was told that it included capital goods like steam turbines, diesel engines, irrigation pipes and pumps, and other types of machinery. The meeting was the first held between the two since the start of the reparations discussions. The President expressed surprise that the text of the Murata reparations proposal mentioned only services as the only form of Japanese reparations payment. He pointed out that he had always understood from Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia that capital goods were included among the forms of reparations that could be expected from Japan. Toward the close of the conversation which lasted about 25 minutes, the President asked Murata to see Acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Leon Ma. Guerrero immediately and set down “in writing” the clarification of the reparations proposal.

Before departing, Murata recalled that he had served in this country during the war as Japanese ambassador. To this, the President, who was a guerilla leader, quipped: “I know. I was in the mountains then and I was looking for you.”

The President then received Gov. Juan Pajo of Bohol in connection with the construction of irrigation systems and roads in Bohol. Pajo invited the President to attend the inauguration of the P1,200,000 Loboc hydroelectric project.

The President also received Dudley Colton, general manager and vice-president of the Johns Manville, Inc., who expressed his company’s desire to set up an asbestos water pipes factory in the Philippines. The President encouraged Colton to go ahead and told him that the government welcomes any foreign capital that is interested in manufacturing materials that will be of help to the country. The President encouraged the setting up of an asbestos water pipes factory here in line with his program of providing every barrio in the country with artesian wells.

Later, the President received from Gonzalo Chua Guan of the Bataan Sawmills Operators Association the sum of P6,000 as their contribution to the Liberty Wells fund. The President forwarded the contribution to Acting Secretary of Public Works Vicente Orosa, who is chairman of the Liberty Wells Association. Chua was accompanied to Malacañang by Bataan Gov. Adelmo Camacho, Bataan Rep. Jose Nuguid, and Manuel Dee C. Ham.

Among the callers in the morning were Speaker Pro-Tempore Daniel Romualdez; Representatives Eulogio Rodriguez, Jr., Domingo Veloso, Ferdinand Marcos, Felipe Garduque, Jose Nuguid, and Wenceslao Lagumbay; Senators Manuel Briones, Tomas Cabili, Justiniano S. Montano, and Ruperto Kangleon; and Governors Wilfredo Panotes of Camarines Norte and Rafael Lazatin of Pampanga.

The President signed in the morning House Bill No. 1291, providing for P250,000 to cover deficiency expenses in the Office of the President.

Just before having his lunch with former U. S. Ambassador Paul V. McNutt, the President received the Isabela boy scouts who had hiked all the way from Isabela to Laguna.

In the afternoon, the President motored to the *Manila Chronicle* building where he participated in the ceremony in connection with the 9th anniversary observance of this newspaper. He awarded certificates of merit and retirement checks to two *Chronicle* men who were retiring: Anacleto Benavides, former managing editor, and Celestino

Mijares, printer. In his brief remarks, the President praised the *Chronicle* for having inaugurated a system of personnel retirement which is similar to that of the government.

At the cocktail party given following the awarding of certificates of merit and retirement checks, the President met several of the senators who were opposed to the Japanese reparations offer. He had informal and cordial talks with Sen. Claro M. Recto, who has been leading the bloc opposing the Garcia-Ohno reparations proposal. The President left the *Manila Chronicle* office at 6 p.m.

Just before the President left the *Chronicle*, he met at the Palace door a delegation of several families from the Tuason Estate. They asked the President to help them in their plight. The President referred their case to Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, who happened to be at the Palace at that time, for study and recommendation. The tenants from the Tuason Estate were scheduled to be ejected and their houses in Tatalon, Quezon City, demolished on April 30. They said they were willing to pay P15 per square meter, but Araneta's price was P25 per square meter, which was beyond their means, they said.

The President suspended Primo Villar as chief of the Motor Vehicles Office in the face of four administrative charges filed against the latter. Villar was administratively charged on four counts involving: (1) serious misconduct in office and conduct unbecoming a government official, (2) immorality amounting to concubinage, (3) neglect and/or laxity in the performance of official duties, and (4) corruption in office and grave abuse of position. The letter of suspension sent to Villar was signed by Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro. Villar's suspension took effect immediately and will last during the hearing of the administrative case against him.

On the recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole, the President granted 12 conditional pardons and five commutation of sentences, Malacañang announced today.

The President and the coalition senators, after a two-hour conference in the evening, agreed to reject the Japanese reparations offer. Acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Leon Ma. Guerrero was instructed to set down the terms agreed upon and present them to Ambassador Shozo Murata the next day.

April 22.—AFTER having an early breakfast, the President went to his office in the Executive Office Building to receive numerous callers who kept him occupied the whole morning.

The President received a delegation of ex-air force personnel who had been laid off recently by the Philippine Air Lines. The delegation, accompanied by Rep. Bartolome Cabangbang, informed the President that they were forming a corporation for the purpose of acquiring 1,024 hectares of agricultural lands near Lake Naujan in Mindoro Oriental. The President gave encouragement to their laudable project, saying that the Government would help them in their settlement plans.

In a conference with Vicente Araneta, chairman of the ACCFA, the President agreed to present the prizes to winners of the 100 cavans-of-rice-per-hectare contest sponsored by the Soil Society of the Philippines. The prizes consisted of tractors and irrigation pumps donated by leading business firms in the country. The ceremonies will be held sometime in the first week of May.

After inducting Primitivo C. Buagas as acting governor of Cotabato to replace Abenir Bornales, the President received a delegation of the Marikina Shoe Producers Association, Inc., who called to ask for government help to alleviate their present sad plight caused by the acute shortage of raw materials. The delegation was headed by Hilario G. Lagan, association president, and accompanied by Rep. Serafin Salvador of Rizal. The President immediately wrote a letter to Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez requesting him to help the shoemakers get increased dollar allocations to enable them to import materials.

Later, the President conferred with Sen. Justiniano S. Montano, Gov. Horacio Rodriguez, and Cavite City Mayor Dominador Mangubat on the progress of the intensified peace-and-order drive in Cavite.

From the officers of the Philippine Blooming Mills Social Club the President received P85 in cash as their club's contribution to the President's program of improving rural areas.

Other morning callers included: Reps. Ombra Amilbangsa of Sulu, Domocao Alonto of Lanao, Bartolome Cabangbang, Natalio Castillo, and Esteban Bernido of Bohol; Bohol Gov. Juan Pajo; former Rep. M. Mindalano; and Rep. Ignacio Cruz of Misamis Oriental, who accompanied a delegation of the Misamis Oriental Association of Manila which asked executive clemency for Maj. Juan Crisostomo Chaves, who was sentenced to a jail term.

At noon, shortly before leaving Malacañang, the President talked with Rep. Carlos Hilado of Negros Occidental. When he returned late in the afternoon, he called a hurried Cabinet meeting. The Cabinet meeting, which started at 5 p.m., was first presided over by Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason. The President arrived at the meeting at 5:45 p.m., and presided until 9:50 p.m., when the meeting broke up.

During the Cabinet meeting, the President directed Acting Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa to pay special attention to the construction of centrifugal pumps for irrigation purposes throughout the Philippines. He told Orosa to transfer the pumping unit of the Department of Agriculture to the same unit in the Department of Public Works to coordinate the work in this direction. He also told Orosa to make a chart indicating the different parts of the country which would need centrifugal pumps. The President further suggested that Orosa help in the organization of cooperatives among small farmers to enable them to borrow money from the RFC for the purchase of centrifugal pumps to irrigate their rice lands. He said the RFC should invest some of its capital in giving a break to small farmers instead of lending money for the construction of residential houses. The President approved the recommendation of the RFC for this firm to set aside P2 million to help finance the importation of livestock.

The President also approved at the Cabinet meeting the construction of the P3-million building of the Government Service Insurance System. The 4-story building will be constructed on a 10,818-square meter lot on the corner of Arroceros and Concepcion Streets. This lot was formerly allocated to the National Orthopedic Hospital, but the Secretary of Health had agreed to yield to the plan to construct the GSIS building on this lot.

The President, moreover, approved at the Cabinet meeting the suggestion that every qualified ship operator in the Philippines participate in the public auction for the sale of eight U. S. vessels to the Philippines. He was informed by Acting Commissioner of Customs Jaime Velasquez that there was pending in the U. S. Congress a bill seeking the sale of eight U. S. vessels to two Philippine shipping firms, namely, the Compañia Maritima and the Philippine Steam Navigation Company. It was believed that the sale of these ships exclusively to the two local companies was unfair and unjust to the other shipowners. The Philippine Embassy in Washington will be asked to make representations with the U. S. government to amend pending legislation so as to authorize the sale of the eight American ships in open bidding.

After consultations with congressional leaders, the President announced in the evening the composition of the panel to represent the Philippine government in reparations talk with Japan. Members of the panel which supersedes a previous list, follows: Sen. Jose P. Laurel, chairman; Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Leon M. Guerrero, vice-chairman; and Senators Francisco A. Delgado, Claro M. Recto, Gil J. Puyat, Lorenzo M. Tañada, and Lorenzo Sumulong; NEC chairman Filemon C. Rodriguez, CB Gov. Miguel Cuaderno, Alfonso Calalang, Daniel Aguinaldo, Jose Paez, Antonio de las Alas, Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, Carlos Fernandez, and Speaker Pro Tempore Daniel Romualdez, members.

April 23.—THE PRESIDENT held a breakfast conference with top brass of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Maj. Gen. Robert M. Cannon, chief of the JUSMAG, for the purpose of threshing out some flaws in certain AFP procedures with the view to making them more adaptable to current needs of the service. The breakfast huddle afforded the President a chance to tell the top ranking officers of the armed forces of the need for revising certain army regulations and policies, some of which, he said, dated as far back as 1916. The President, who is concurrently secretary of national defense, instructed the general staff to refrain from retiring good officers and enlisted men just because they were due for retirement. If these officers and men were efficient and still willing to serve, the country should not be deprived of their services, the President said. The Chief Executive also called attention to certain flaws in existing regulations on promotions which do not extend proper recognition to meritorious combat record.

During the conference, the President also asked Gen. Jesus Vargas, armed forces chief of staff, to look into the case of an army officer who had been cited in a recent Supreme Court decision as a dummy of Madame X. Gen. Vargas was told to report back as soon as possible. The President endorsed a plan presented by Brig. Gen. Eulogio Balao, vice-chief of staff, to transfer the PEFTOK training camp in Marikorea, Marikina, Rizal, to Tres Cruces, a bandit-ridden spot in Cavite. The conference, which lasted from 8 to 9:30 a.m., also reviewed the latest development in the peace and order campaign in various parts of the country.

Following the conference, the President inducted Narciso Pimentel, Jr., as member of the Board of Review for Motion Pictures. Camarines Norte Board Member Ruben Villaluz was also sworn in as acting chief of the Motor Vehicles Office, vice Primo Villar, who had been suspended on charges of estafa filed against him in the court of first instance of Rizal. Then the President left Malacañang with Gen. Jesus Vargas and motored to Camp Murphy to conduct an inspection.

When the President returned to Malacañang at 11:30 a.m., he was greeted by a group of callers who had complaints or requests to make. Most of the callers were job-seekers. The President listened to their problems and made on-the-spot decisions. However, he referred several cases to his aides and assistants with instructions that something be done about them.

In the morning, the President instructed Acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Leon Ma. Guerrero to advise the U. S. Embassy that the Philippine government was now ready to appoint a panel to discuss implementation of the Philippines-U. S. defense pact. At a recent conference in Baguio, the President and congressional leaders had agreed to seek talks with U. S. authorities on the implementation of the mutual defense pact. Subsequently, the President created a sub-committee headed by Brig. Gen. Alfonso Arellano to prepare the ground for Philippines' participation in such talks. The President had received a report from Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo, his personal envoy to the United States, in which the latter said that he had already transmitted to Secretary John Foster Dulles of the U. S. State Department the Philippines' desire for bilateral talks on the defense pact.

Before presiding over the luncheon caucus of NP-DP senators and representatives at Malacañang, the President held a brief conference with Rep. Jose Roy of Tarlac and received Louis Kroeger and Marvin Smith, U. S. experts in government administration system. Kroeger and Smith were accompanied to Malacañang by Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona. Earlier, the President received Sen. Ruperto Kangleon and Rep. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz.

At noon, the President presided over the coalition luncheon caucus which had been summoned by him to thresh out further the Japanese reparations question. It was decided in the caucus to refer to a conference between the Philippine and the Japanese reparations panels the points of disagreements that have arisen between the diplomatic representatives of the two countries regarding the problem.

Immediately following the caucus, Acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Leon Ma. Guerrero sent a diplomatic note to Japanese Ambassador Shozo Murata expressing the Philippines' view that it "will not interpose any objection to the submission to the conference (between the Philippines and Japanese panels), when it is resumed, of the questions raised by our notes of the 21st and 23rd April 1954." In his note, Guerrero reiterated the Philippines' position that the Garcia-Ohno agreement "constitutes merely a starting point for the formal negotiation of a reparations agreement between our two countries.

At the same time, the President issued a statement that he was sending a six-man commission to Japan to ascertain Japan's capacity to pay reparations. The President said he wanted the commission to make its study "for my own satisfaction" so that he might have "complete possession of the facts" in any decision that he may be called upon to make. He pointed out that the appointment of the commission "does not, in any way, interfere with the negotiations now being conducted here." The President said he was considering appointing Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez as chairman of the group and Col. Jaime Velasquez, Francisco Ortigas, Jr., and Francisco Rodrigo, as well as a newspaperman each from the Malacañang and the congressional press clubs, as members. (See pages 1542-1545, for the full text of the President's statement.)

At 5 p.m., the President motored to Balara, Quezon City, where he spoke at the grand opening ceremony of the First National Jamboree of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines. President Magsaysay was inducted as honorary “tenderfoot” and honorary president of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines to the thunderous cheers of thousands of boy scouts from all over the Philippines gathered at the jamboree site in Balara. The President went through the rites like a good boy scout, enjoying the ceremony in spite of a blistering sun. The induction ceremony was administered by Jorge B. Vargas, president of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines.

Immediately after his induction, the President delivered a seven-minute address in which he called upon all the boy scouts to contribute their share in winning the war against Communism by being “steadfast in your purposes, courageous in carrying them out, and at all times loyal to your ideals.” The President drew a big hand when in the course of his speech he chided his former critics who during the last campaign had spread the word that Mr. Magsaysay did not deserve to be elected because he was “only a boy scout.” He said: “If my critics are still around, I would like to inform them that—as of today—I am officially a boy scout and proud of that distinction.” (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 1540–1542, for the full text of the President’s address.)

Upon his return to Malacañang at 7 p.m., the President held an off-the-record conference with reporters.

The President this day directed Judge Salvador Esguerra, legal assistant, to look into the legality of cancelling the army’s contract to buy second-line tires for a period of three years from Demetrio Muñoz. Muñoz had been reported as bragging that he had used the influence of a Malacañang official in acquiring the dollar allocation licenses from the Central Bank. The President wanted the contract of the AFP with Muñoz cancelled if there were no legal hindrance.

The President received this day a copy of the joint report of Justice Undersecretary Jesus Barrera and General Jesus Vargas, armed forces chief of staff, on the charges filed by former NBI Director Jose M. Crisol against Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro. Crisol charged Castro with allegedly interfering in the investigation being conducted by certain NBI agents in an extortion case. The Barrera-Vargas report acquitted Secretary Castro of the charge, attributing the whole controversy to “some kind of misunderstanding, induced perhaps by the parties’ own concept of their respective duties and sense of responsibility.”

On the side of Castro, the report states, “his sense of responsibility to protect the good name of an officer member of the armed forces from possible unjustified accusation, might have urged him to caution and counsel against precipitate action.” For Crisol’s part, “his spirit of independence and his commendable uncompromising attitude against even the shadow of interference in what he honestly believed to be his sworn duty, could have inclined him to see offense where none was meant, especially so when he depended solely on what was transmitted to him by his agents.” The report in conclusion says: “Upon the whole, the undersigned find that there was no interference by Secretary Castro in the investigation of the extortion case being conducted by the NBI.”

The President signed this day three proclamations and one executive order. President Magsaysay signed Proclamation No. 15, declaring the first week of May 1954 as National Rice Week; Proclamation No. 16, declaring the last week of May 1954 as Soil Conservation Week; Proclamation No. 17, revoking Proclamation No. 599, dated July 6, 1933, and declaring open to disposition under the provisions of the Public Land Act, the land embraced therein situated in the municipality of Echague, Isabela; and Executive Order No. 28, amending Executive Order No. 651, dated December 15, 1953, creating the Roxas Memorial Commission. (See pp. 1426 and 1432–1434 for the full texts of the above mentioned proclamations and executive order.)

April 24.—IN THE MORNING, the President held a conference with General Jesus Vargas, armed forces chief of staff, who reported that the situation in Cavite was well in hand and that the 7th BCT was being sent to that province to step up the current peace and order campaign.

Later, the President received a delegation from Surigao headed by Gov Fernando Silvosa, which sought assistance in connection with a loan applied for by his province from the RFC for the installation of a water system in Surigao. Rep. Reynaldo Honrado accompanied the Surigao group which included Board Member Olipio Epis, Mayor Buenaventura Canda of Placer, Mayor Victor Resma of Tago, and Assessor Osorio Calihisan.

Other callers this day included: Gov. Vicente M. Constantino of Quezon Province, who proposed that the projected highway from Manila to the Bicol region be made to pass through Calauan instead of through Alaminos, Laguna; Gov. Bernardo Torres of Leyte, who had been in Manila for five days working for the inclusion of his province in the national highway building program being drawn by the Department of Public Works; Senators Lorenzo Sumulong, Mariano J. Cuenco, and Ruperto Kangleon; and Rep. Wenceslao Lagumbay of Laguna.

About 10 a.m., the President sent for his car and motored to the Huk-infested town of Porac, Pampanga, to see for himself conditions obtaining in that locality. Accompanied by an aide, the President left without an escort for the trip so surprised everyone that even the escort car was left behind. During the surprise visit, the President wired Col. Manuel Cabal, 1st MA commander, and ordered that an army engineer be dispatched to Porac to undertake a preliminary survey of the locality and locate a suitable site for a 2,000-hectare EDCOR project in the area. The President conferred with Porac Mayor Pedro Gopez upon arrival and told him of his plan to establish an EDCOR project in the area.

The President did not have his lunch until 2:30 p.m., when he arrived at Malacañang from his trip. Later in the afternoon, he received a radio message from Col. Cabal informing him that the army engineer had been dispatched to Porac at 3 p.m. and that a survey team will be sent to the town Monday.

About 6 p.m., the President left Malacañang again to attend a party given by the Reserve Officers Legion of the Philippines at the home of Senen Gabaldon on Peña Street, Sta. Mesa. At this party, the President was presented with an oil painting of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo by Col. Jose Razon, president of the ROLP. In accepting the gift to the government, the President said that the donation was a symbol of the heritage of freedom of the Filipino people from the past that will always serve to inspire the people in overcoming hardships and difficulties facing the nation and in fighting for the preservation of the country's liberty and freedom. He suggested that the portrait be formally presented at Malacañang the coming week.

When the President returned to Malacañang at 7:30 p.m., he received a delegation of 40 company physicians representing both public and private industrial establishments. They had come to Manila for a two-day conference sponsored by the Workmen's Compensation Commission. They were accompanied to Malacañang by Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevosio and WCC Deputy Commissioner Nieves Baens del Rosario. The President endorsed the efforts of the Labor Department to protect workers injured in line of duty through strict enforcement of the amended Workmen's Compensation Act. The delegation also obtained the President's promise of support to a pending bill seeking additional appropriations for the National Orthopedic Hospital.

After the group had left, the President left Malacañang and boarded the yacht *Pagasa* where he was scheduled to spend the evening.

April 25.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay spent the whole day aboard the yacht *Pagasa*, poring over pending estate papers. He ate his breakfast early as was his wont and at noon he lunched aboard the yacht with Mrs. Magsaysay and some Palace assistants.

At 4 p.m., he left the yacht and returned to Malacañang to receive the members of the League of Women Voters who called on him on the last day of their three-day convention. In his extemporaneous speech before the officers and members of the League at the Malacañang social hall, the President dedicated considerable portions of his time praising two women who, he said, were greatly responsible for his success in life. According to him, he owed much of his success to his wife, who, he said, inspired him to work hard. In his youth, he added, it was his mother, who made him go straight.

The President stressed in his speech, which lasted more than 30 minutes, the need for public reorientation on the philosophy underlying public service. Government officials, he said, "should not think of enriching themselves in office but must be prepared to sacrifice." This is as it should be, he pointed out, because public trust in government officials means dedication to the service of the country. The President said he would be very happy to give due recognition to all public servants who are worthy of public trust. He said that he would promote a public servant

even 10 grades if he was truly deserving. Actual performance and devotion to duty should be the decisive factors for promotion, he said.

The President likewise praised the League of Women Voters for its public service. He urged its members to be more militant in bringing about desirable change in the attitude toward service among public officials. He said that with the help of the League of Women Voters, the people will win the struggle between selfishness and greed as against the forces of justice.

In the course of the ceremony, the President received on behalf of Mrs. Luz B Magsaysay a scroll of recognition and a medal of merit presented by Mrs. Fernanda S. Balboa, president of the LWVP. The medal of merit had his inscription: "For the inspiration and moral support to the President." The scroll read:

"For electing to stay in the background and for setting a pattern of a simple, virtuous life for her family, thereby making it possible for her illustrious husband to tread the straight and narrow path of rectitude."

After his speech, the President inducted the new officers and members of the board of directors of the LWVP. Then he entertained the officers and members of the league with a merienda at the Palace social hall.

In the evening, the President and the First Lady attended the reception and ball given by the Zambales Association at the Manila Hotel.

Malacañang announced in the evening that the departure of the special Philippine survey commission to Japan to assess Japan's capacity to pay reparations, originally scheduled for Wednesday, April 28, has been held up pending the outcome of consultations between the group and the Philippine panel to the Philippines-Japan reparations conference.

April 26.—THE PRESIDENT held in the morning a 20-minute conference with the members of the survey commission to Japan headed by Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez. The President said there was nothing definite yet about the group's departure.

After the conference, the President administered the oath of office to former Rep. Felixberto M. Serrano as chief of the Philippine mission to the United Nations with the rank of ambassador. A group of Batangas political leaders, headed by Sen. Jose P. Laurel and friends of the newly appointed envoy, attended the oath-taking ceremony held at Malacañang's Council of State room. In a brief speech following his induction, Envoy Serrano promised to do his best to discharge his new duties and to contribute "to the solution of the world's ills through the tested process of free discussion."

The President began receiving visitors at his executive office at 9:30 a.m., after he had conferred with Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro on pending state papers. As usual, delegations swarmed at Malacañang this day. Headed by G. K. Handoo, the Indian delegation to the Second Asian Games, called to pay its respects. The delegation presented the President with an ivory replica of the Asoka Pillar at Sanchi, India, as a gift from President Rajendra Prasad, and an ivory replica of Taj Mahal as a gift from Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. The group was accompanied to Malacañang by Minister M. R. A. Baig.

A group of Liberal Party mayors from Cavite paid a courtesy call and offered their support and cooperation to the President. Present during their call was Senator Justiniano S. Montano.

The committee formed last January by the President to study the problems of the nursing profession in the country also called to submit its report. The committee, headed by J. V. Sotejo, dean of the U. P. College of Nursing, presented several recommendations including the establishment of more puericulture centers, the nationalization of the health centers, close supervision of private hospitals and clinics, and the revision of the nursing curricula to meet health needs.

Former Malacañang Press Secretary Juan C. Orendain reported to the President for instructions prior to his departure for Geneva on April 27 as technical adviser and press relations officer of the Philippine delegation.

Other callers this day included: Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, Zambales Gov. Archimedes Villanueva, Mindoro Oriental Gov. Francisco Infantado, Mt. Province Rep. Ramon Mitra, and Mayor Conrado Estrella of Rosales, Pangasinan.

The President received callers up to 12:30 p.m., when he held a luncheon conference with senators and representatives in connection with the Japanese reparations. This conference lasted until 3 p.m.

At 6 p.m., the President inducted the newly elected officers of the Reserve Officers Legion of the Philippines. The ROLP officers and members called on the President to present their petitions and to present formally to the Government a painting of General Emilio Aguinaldo. Speaking extemporaneously before the oath-taking ceremony, the President took up the cudgel for the Reserve Officers Legion of the Philippines, saying that it was high time for the Government to do something for the benefit of those who had always been looked down upon in the past. He recalled how, when he was a congressman, he had fought with some colleagues on the floor of Congress for the benefit of the reserve officers. This fight, he said, he continued up to the time when he became defense secretary. After the ceremony, the President gave a native merienda to the ROLP officers and men.

Later, the President received from the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines an initial check for P15,000 for the President's Liberty Wells fund campaign. Mauro Maradi, grand master who presented the check to the President, said that the amount was a voluntary contribution from the Masons and a sign of their cooperation with the President's administration program. He pledged the support of his organization to the President's clean and honest government drive.

In the evening, Ray Higgins, chairman of the Philippine National Red Cross blood bank, reported to the President that sailors from five U. S. Navy warships—*Helena*, *Salisbury Sound*, *Pine Island*, *Essex*, and *Boxer*—had donated a total of 3,054 bottles or more than 1,500,000 cc. of fresh blood to the Red Cross blood bank. The total donation was worth P763,500 under current market prices. The President asked Higgins to express his own personal thanks and the appreciation of the Filipino people to the officers and men of the U. S. Navy who had magnanimously donated their blood. He said this gesture was another "concrete manifestation of the deep and abiding friendship between the Filipinos and the American people."

Later in the evening, the President spoke before the members of the Philippine Medical Association on the occasion of their 47th annual convention held at the Far Eastern University auditorium. He urged the Philippine physicians to contribute their share in executing the government's program of eradicating the most common diseases that afflict the rural population. He outlined his health program and said that such a "broad program inevitably raises its own difficulties." The President stressed the fact that its initial need is funds. He pointed out that he had recommended to Congress an additional outlay of almost P3 million for the Department of Health to undertake the implementation of the new rural health policies. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 1542–1545 for the full text of the President's speech.)

April 27.—THE PRESIDENT began receiving visitors about 8 a.m., when Col. Frank Hodsoll, an executive of Warner Barnes, Inc., called to pay his respects following his recent arrival in Manila in the course of his periodic world tours for his company. Hodsoll congratulated the President, saying he had heard much about him in the United States. He said the new Philippine president had made a good impression all over the world, particularly in the United States.

Frank Clifton Rachal, Jr., a representative of the Kraloy Plastics of Los Angeles, California, also called to display to the President samples of plastic pipes and fittings produced by his company. Used for water system, gasoline, gas, or for irrigation, the new products are lighter, less expensive, and more efficient than the regular GI pipes, Rachal explained. The President referred him to the Metropolitan Water District.

Later in the morning, the President received officers of the Filipino Shipowners' Association, who asked him that the eight American maritime vessels under lease by the Compañia Maritima and the Everett Steamship Lines be sold at public auction to give a chance to all Filipino ship operators to bid for the vessels. The shipping men who were accompanied to Malacañang by Rep. Domingo Veloso of Leyte were Generoso Tanseco, James Chiongbian, Antonio A. Torres, Rodolfo Villanueva, and Norberto Quisumbing.

Then the President received a joint delegation from the Philippine Medical Association and from the League of District and City Health Officers now holding their annual convention in Manila. The joint delegation numbering about 500 men and women was accompanied to Malacañang by Health Secretary Paulino Garcia. They called to pay their respects and to submit resolutions offering their support to the administration's rural health program. During the call, the President announced his intention to give a yearly award to persons who distinguished themselves in research and other work in the field of medicine. He thanked the medical men for their offer of support to his program of improving living conditions in the outlying districts, saying that medical care is among the things the people in the rural areas need most.

The President received visitors until 1 p.m. Other callers included Reps. Mateo Pecson of Masbate, Leonardo Perez of Nueva Vizcaya, Emilio Cortez of Pampanga, and Rodolfo Ganzon of Iloilo; Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, Gen. Jesus Vargas, and some municipal officials from nearby provinces who consulted the President on problems of their respective localities.

While having lunch at 1 p.m. with Manuel "Dindo" Gonzales, the President decided to pay a visit at the Central Bank. Immediately after lunch, the President took along Dindo Gonzales and went down to the front door. Without bothering to call for his own car from the garage, they boarded a car nearby belonging to Capt. Jose Estrella, presidential aide, who was trailing behind.

Arriving at the Central Bank about 1:30 p.m., the President went directly to the office of Deputy Governor Andres Castillo, acting governor in the absence of Governor Miguel Cuaderno, Sr. Informed that Castillo was attending the regular CB monetary board meeting, the President proceeded to the conference room, where he found the monetary board in session.

The President stayed at the conference room for more than 30 minutes, exchanging views with members of the board. He instructed the monetary board to encourage the flow of foreign capital into the country and to provide adequate protection to the limit of the laws to foreign investors. He pointed out that the Central Bank is the heart of Philippine business and that it must "tick" properly. The President warned against the danger of scaring away alien capital which, he said, is necessary to facilitate the rehabilitation of the country. He told the members of the monetary board that because of the nature of their work, they might find it difficult to please everyone. He assured them, however, of his full support so long as they perform their jobs as best they know how.

From the conference room, the President inspected several offices in the Central Bank. He went to the export and import control division where he talked with some of the personnel. He also visited the cash department and observed the counting of money and how mutilated notes are perforated for burning. The President returned to Malacañang about 2:30 p.m.

At 4 p.m., the President went down to the Executive Office Building and inspected the reception room. He conferred with Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro and made suggestions to rearrange the reception room and make it more comfortable for visitors waiting for their turn to see the President at Malacañang.

When visitors noticed that the President was in the Executive Office Building, they flocked to him and some even followed him when he was about to board his car. Newly named Cotabato Governor Primitivo Buagas asked for instructions before assuming his new job. The President told him to hurry up in going to Cotabato so that he could attend to the affairs of the people. Liceria J. Sunga of Looc, Dumaguete City, presented a petition requesting that *bona fide* occupants of the foreshore lands in Looc district be sold the lands they occupy. The President told PCAC Assistant Tex Carrillo to instruct the director of lands to come to Malacañang the next day so that the President could discuss the petition with him.

The President left Malacañang again at 5 p.m., after receiving more callers.

The President in the evening set another meeting for tomorrow morning with his special mission to assess Japan's capacity to pay reparations. He said he wants this group to "get the facts so that the wisest decision can be made on reparations." He said: "When we have the facts, and have studied them thoroughly, we will be in the best position to act on this matter."

The President's statement which accompanied the announcement of his second meeting with the special mission the next day follows in full:

"There has been too much talk on this whole question of Japanese reparations. It is time to get facts and make use of those facts, without rumors, gossips, or speculation.

"I have asked a group of citizens, whom I trust to represent our nation honestly and intelligently, to go to Japan and get the facts so that the wisest decision can be made on reparations. When we have the facts, and have studied them thoroughly, we will be in the best position to act.

"Some of the past discussion has seemed to be trying to put a price on the bloodshed and destruction suffered in the Philippines during the last war. That is wrong. The truth is that no amount of money can repay us, if it is our purpose to be repaid for the lives lost and sufferings undergone by our people during the war.

"Instead, we must think of rebuilding our nation, of what our citizens need for a better life in the days ahead. Reparations must help in this task.

"How much, then, should Japan pay us? Our northern neighbors should repay us to the limit of what they are able to pay. We must know what that limit is.

"As President, it is my duty to protect the best interests of my country. I will not leave undone whatever is demanded to be done by this obligation, which I mean to discharge fully."

April 28.—SHORTLY after his breakfast, the President held a 20-minute conference with members of his special survey mission to assess Japan's capacity to pay reparations and instructed them to leave for Japan, Friday, April 30. He asked the missionaries to tap all available sources of information in Japan about that country's economy. He named Cesar Lanuza, economic counselor of the Department of Foreign Affairs, as technical consultant to the mission, and authorized the mission to send for more technicians as the need for them arises.

Following the conference, the President received Mons. Egidio Vagnozzi, papal nuncio, who called to request that more trucks be assigned to transport relief and other supplies in Cotabato. The President immediately called up General Jesus Vargas and instructed him to provide the necessary trucks as soon as possible.

The Philippine delegation to the forthcoming 4th Australian convention of architects in Sydney on May 4, called to pay their respects and receive instructions from the President. The group was composed of Elias Ruiz, delegation head, and Cresencio de Castro, and Rufino Antonio, members.

Other morning callers included: Basil G. Davidson, vice-president of the McGraw-Hill International Corporation, who called to pay his respects following his arrival in Manila. Sen. Tomas Cabili; Father Arthur Weiss, SJ; Rep. Jose Roy of Tarlac; and Gov. Rafael Lazatin of Pampanga. Rep. Celestino Juan of Nueva Ecija and Conrado de Jesus, local McGraw-Hill representative, accompanied Davidson to Malacañang.

The President received only a few callers in the morning because the Cabinet meeting, which usually starts at noon and lasts until 3 p.m., started unusually early, at 10 a.m. The Cabinet meeting lasted barely an hour because the President was feeling indisposed. His physician, Dr. Jose Corpus, advised him to take a rest.

At the Cabinet meeting, the President asked Acting Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa to expedite the installation of water systems and artesian wells in localities where such installations had been earmarked. Apparently dissatisfied with the slow pace of some district and city engineers in carrying out his policy of providing healthful water supply to as many communities as possible, the President suggested the appointment of a “performance offices” in the Department of Public Works to check up on the progress of projects being undertaken by local engineers.

The President also asked Deputy Administrator of Economic Coordination Juan Concon, who was present at the Cabinet meeting in place of Administrator Sotero Cabahug, to check on the production of the Cebu Portland Cement Company which had been reported to have decreased lately. The President expressed concern over various projects being undertaken by the government which may be delayed or stopped owing to failure of the cement company to deliver orders on time.

Other matters approved during the Cabinet meeting were:

1. Reservation of a 35-hectare site north of the veterans’ hospital compound in Quezon City for Tatalon Estate tenants;
2. Issuance of an executive order designating districts and city health officers and sanitary engineers of the Department of Health to regulate the planning and construction of water supplies; and
3. Issuance of an executive order creating a screening committee for the issuance and revocation of “fish carrier” licenses as a means of curtailing dynamite fishing.

After the Cabinet meeting, the President conferred with Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro over routine matters. Then he retired to his bedroom for a brief rest.

At noon, the President lunched with Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, RFC Chairman Andres Castillo, and PNB President Arsenio Jison.

Early in the afternoon, accompanied by his physician, President Magsaysay boarded the yacht *Pagasa*, where he spent the evening. Malacañang announced that all appointments of the President for the next day have been cancelled, as the President had been urged by his physician to take a much-needed rest.

April 29.—IN compliance with his physician’s advice, the President stayed aboard the yacht *Pagasa* the whole day, as he ran a slight fever the night before. He felt better this day and worked on state papers aboard the yacht.

Among the papers signed by the President was the instrument of ratification of the International Sugar Agreement of 1953, previously signed by the authorized representatives of the Philippines in London on October 30, 1953. The Philippine Senate in its Resolution No. 8, dated April 8, 1954, had concurred in the ratification of this agreement subject to the following reservation: “That in case the Executive Agreement between the United States and the Philippines whereby the latter is allowed to export to the former 850,000 long tons of sugar duty free is abrogated, the Philippines will seek a revision of this treaty to protect its own interest.”

About 5 p.m., the President returned to Malacañang. He conferred immediately upon arrival with members of the Malacañang staff on routine matters. He then received Rep. Jose Roy of Tarlac and Reps. Jose Puey, A. M. Gatuslao and Carlos Hilado of Negros Occidental, who discussed with the Chief Executive matters concerning their districts.

In the evening, the President received at the Council of State room the members of the Consultative Council of Students headed by Rafael Salas. The student leaders, through Miss Pura O. Tianco, presented a resolution to the President, affirming their faith and support of the President’s stand in sending a fact-finding reparations commission to Japan. The President thanked the student leaders for supporting his action in sending a fact-finding reparations commission to Japan.

At 7:15 p.m., the President was fetched by Manuel Elizalde, who accompanied him to the Malacañang social hall, where the ceremonies in connection with the launching of the peace and amelioration fund drive was held. The President delivered the main speech appealing for popular support to the drive. To bolster his appeal, the President handed in a check for P1,000 to Manuel Elizalde, chairman of the drive, as his personal contribution to the fund. (Watch for the full text of the President's speech in the May 1954 issue of the Gazette.)

Malacañang announced this day that the President had granted 11 conditional pardons, one absolute pardon, and one commutation of sentence, upon the recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole.

April 30.—THE PRESIDENT had a breakfast conference with the board of directors of the NARIC. He told the board members to bring down the price of rice within the easy reach of the common people and step up their campaign against rice hoarders and profiteers. He told them to make use of every possible way to bring down the price of rice.

Later, the President conferred with Maj. Gen. Jesus Vargas and some AFP staff officers, including Cols. Manuel Q. Salientes and Nicanor Jimenez. Other callers in the morning were Senator Justiniano Montano, Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue Silverio Blaquera, and some mayors from Visayan provinces.

After his conference with Blaquera, the President issued a statement, which, in effect was a denial of the rumors that Acting Collector of Internal Revenue J. Antonio Araneta had been acting on tax cases involving his (Araneta's) family interests. Blaquera had informed the President that "Araneta does not take action on cases involving his family or where he is directly or indirectly interested."

About 11 a.m., the President took time out from pressing official duties and motored to the barrio of Dampalit, Malabon, Rizal, to visit a sickly old woman, Juliana Pascual. The President had read in the letter column of a Manila daily the wish of the aged woman to see the President "before I die." After motoring on dusty roads and narrow side streets, the President eventually found the house of the old woman in Dampalit. The President found the ailing woman seated at the doorway, all dressed up, as if she were expecting him.

"Now I can die," the old woman cried as she stared incredulously at the President. "No, you will not die yet; you will get better after my visit," the President answered as he helped the old woman to stand. She has been suffering from rheumatism for the last three years.

Meanwhile, word quickly got around about the President's presence in the barrio. In no time, the house of the old woman swarmed with men and women, all clamoring and laughing excitedly. Children climbed on windows to get a better view of the President.

Upon learning that aged Juliana had another sister, Gregoria, who was also eager to see him, the President invited Juliana to his car and motored down the narrow street to visit the sister. Another sister, Agapita, joined the group and thus the aging trio had an unexpected reunion with the President.

Before leaving Dampalit, the President promised to construct artesian wells for the barrio folks. On his return trip, the President visited another barrio of Malabon, Hulo, where he promised the construction of another artesian well. The President returned to Malacañang about 1 p.m. by way of Quezon City, where he inspected the progress of the work at the settlement site in Bago Bantay.

In the afternoon, the President entertained at a cocktail party the officials and delegates to the Second Asian Games. The officials and delegates of some 18 countries participating in the Second Asian Games were accompanied to Malacañang by Antonio de las Alas, chairman of the organizing committee of the Asian Games, and Jorge B. Vargas, PAAF and Asian Games president.

In his brief welcome remarks, the President said that in a world so unhappily torn by conflicts, "a gathering like this can be full of happy significance." He said that by the presence of the various officials and delegates, "we prove that

international amity is possible—and indeed is necessary—in this region of the world.” The President expressed the hope that there were no differences which Asians could not settle as peaceably and as amicably as “we are able to settle our athletic differences on the playing grounds.” He added: “In an even larger sense we proved, by our presence here, the innate capacity of men for goodwill towards one another.”

In the course of the cocktails, some delegations took the opportunity to present to the President gifts from their respective governments.”

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Office of the President of the Philippines. (1954). Official Month in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(4), xcvii-cxxiii.

President's Month in Review: May, 1954

President's Month in Review: June, 1954

President's Month in Review: July, 1954

President's Month in Review: August, 1954

President's Month in Review: September, 1954

OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

September 1—PRESIDENT MAGSAYSAY continued to receive greetings today on the occasion of his 47th birthday the preceding day. Several delegations called in the morning to wish him "Many happy returns" and to give him their donations to the Liberty Wells fund for the installation of artesian wells in the barrios.

Teofilo D. Reyes, Sr., president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce, handed the President a check for P5, 000 as the chamber's contribution to the Liberty Wells fund drive. Reyes, who is also general chairman of the wells fund campaign, informed the Chief Executive that more such contributions were forthcoming from the chamber.

Gov. Vicente Constantino of Quezon turned in the sum of P1,500 so far collected from public contributions in his province. A delegation from the Philippine Women's Dental Society headed by its president, Dr. Eufemia Laconico del Rosario, also handed a check representing voluntary contributions from members of her organization.

Sen. Jose C. Locsin gave P1,000 donated by the *Asociacion de Hacenderos de Silay-Saravia* to the peace fund drive.

The President limited himself to a few callers this morning in view of the Cabinet meeting scheduled at 10 a.m.

The President received U. S. Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance, who called at Malacañang this morning to lodge a formal protest against the recent "leakage" here of the American draft of the proposed Southeast Asia treaty.

Expressing his regrets over the matter, the President promised to order an investigation with the view to determining the persons responsible for the leakage of classified information and avoiding the recurrence of a similar incident in the future. His conference with the U. S. ambassador lasted about 10 minutes.

After the President had received Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance, Minister Salvador P. Lopez reported for instructions a few hours after his arrival here from New York to assist in the forthcoming SEATO talks. He was accompanied to Malacañang by Ambassador Felino Neri, presidential advisor on foreign affairs.

Other callers included Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo, who saw tin-President on undisclosed matters, and some senators and representatives.

President Magsaysay this day presided over a two and one-half hours Cabinet meeting, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., during which the following matters were taken up:

1. The formal complaint of the U. S. State Department regarding the leakage of the U. S. draft treaty to the Manila Conference of 1954,
2. The deportation of some 3,000 over-stayed Chinese in the Philippines,
3. The importation of rice by private persons with the help of the NARIC in order to solve the rice problems,
4. The case of alleged fake importers,
5. The conflicting applications for petroleum exploration concessions,
6. More rigid implementation of the anti-dumping law,
7. The contract for the barter of scrap iron in exchange for water pipes,

8. A resolution requesting the Japanese Government for a rebidding of the salvage of sunken vessels, and

9. The purchase from a local dealer of 25,000 aluminum water canteens at P2.75 each.

Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia reported to the Cabinet that the U. S. State Department had lodged a complaint with the foreign office regarding the leakage to the local press of the U. S. draft treaty in connection with the Manila Conference of 1954. The draft was considered classified, matter.

Vice-President Garcia informed the Cabinet that the State Department had been profoundly disturbed by the leakage because it might hamper negotiations. The Vice-President asked the Cabinet to cooperate in the efforts to prevent a repetition of such incidents.

The President wholeheartedly endorsed the Vice-President's, request, and enjoined the Cabinet members to help in this matter.

President Magsaysay inquired from the committee of three composed of Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, and Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug as to their recommendations on the question of some 3,000 overstayed Chinese visitors in the Philippines. This question had been referred to them sometime ago.

The Vice-President reported that the Chinese Chamber of Commerce had petitioned the Government to consider these overstayed Chinese visitors as refugees under the asylum law. According to the petition, if these Chinese were allowed to stay here, they would not be supported by the Government but by their relatives and friends, and they would submit to Government regulations governing their case.

The Cabinet denied the petition of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and approved the President's directive to have the Vice-President make strong representations with the Taipei Government for the deportation of these overstayed Chinese visitors to Formosa. The President said that the Philippine Government would shoulder all transportation, expenses in deporting the Chinese.

The President asked Economic Coordination Administrator Alfredo Montelibano about the results of the bidding by private rice importers to import rice in order to provide sufficient rice supply. Montelibano said that the NARIC committee had worked up to 3 a.m. Tuesday deciding on the merits of the bids, especially with reference to the quality of rice.

The President talked by telephone to NARIC General Manager Juan O. Chioco and asked him further about the results of the bidding. The President made it clear to Chioco that the rice would have to be imported with the capital of the private rice dealers and that they should not use NARIC funds because the NARIC would use its capital in buying local rice later.

The President emphasized that the Government was interested in the quick consummation of this plan provided that the imported rice would be retailed at a low price.

Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, chairman of the monetary board of the Central Bank, informed the President that the list of alleged faked importers which had been submitted to the Chief Executive had not been exactly correct and complete. He said that Central Bank Officials were still re-screening the list very carefully and that a new list would be published after the necessary corrections had been made.

Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta reported to the Cabinet the conflict on petroleum exploration concessions between the Philippine Oil Development Company and the Standard Vacuum Oil Company. The areas under consideration involve some 169,000 hectares of land in Cagayan, Isabela, and Mountain Province.

According to the petroleum law, no provisions had been made regarding priority on the exploration concession claims except the first date of the publication of the claims. The President referred the matter to Justice Secretary Tuason for legal opinion.

The President directed Finance Secretary Hernandez to enforce more rigidly the implementation of the Anti-Dumping Law in order to protect new industries. The Anti-Dumping Law, or Republic Act No. 32, was passed in 1946, which amended a similar law originally legislated in 1932. The law authorizes the secretary of finance to stop the importation or attempted importation of merchandise which would have the effect or tendency to destroy or injure local industry and/or to prevent the development of such industry.

The law further provides that when the importation of such commodities violates this act, the articles would be confiscated or ordered returned to the source of origin at the expense of the importer.

The President's directive was prompted by the recent importation of onions, garlic, and potatoes.

In this connection, Secretary Hernandez reported to the President that revenues from taxation for the fiscal year 1954 covering the period up to June 30, were P6 1/2 million more than the estimated collection for the same period.

The President approved the barter of scrap iron available at Corregidor for water pipes. Economic Coordination Administrator Montelibano reported that as a result of the public bidding held on June 7, 1954, the committee awarded the contract to C. A. Roxas and Company, Inc., under which the latter would deliver to the NASSCO within 45 days 141.3 M.T. of four-inch G.C.I. pipes and 200 M.T. of six-inch G.C.I. pipes in exchange for 3,000 metric tons of scrap iron from Corregidor.

The Cabinet approved Vice-President Garcia's recommendation requesting that a resolution be adopted asking the Japanese Government to order a rebidding for the salvage of sunken vessels in the Philippines. The rebidding would be supervised by a joint commission of Filipinos and Japanese.

The Cabinet also approved Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug's recommendation to purchase 25,000 aluminum water canteens at P2.75 each from a local manufacturer. It was explained that if these materials were bought through the procurement mission in Washington, each canteen would cost P2.38, including the 20 per cent surcharge. However, the Cabinet approved the apparently higher offer of the local dealer in order to promote and encourage new local industries.

It was further explained that although the imported materials apparently would cost cheaper, yet the Government would have to pay a 17 per cent exchange tax and an allowance of 15 per cent should be given as prescribed by the Flag Law. Besides, the Cabinet pointed out that the approval of this negotiated contract would protect local industries and employ Filipino laborers in the manufacture of articles.

President Magsaysay later in the afternoon received the first British ambassador to the Philippines, Sir Frank S. Gibbs, at ceremonies at the Malacañang ceremonial hall.

The British Ambassador arrived at Malacañang at exactly 3:30 p.m. He was given military honors by a unit of the Presidential Guards Battalion. He was accompanied to the President, who waited at the ceremonial hall, by Foreign Office Protocol Officer Jose Estrada and Col. Napoleon D. Valeriano.

After presenting his credentials, the British Ambassador in his presentation speech said that it would be his continued endeavor "to maintain and strengthen the good relations which so happily exist between our two countries."

He added that British official relations with the Philippines have, except during the last war, "subsisted continuously and harmoniously since the first opening of a British consulate in Manila in 1844." He expressed the hope that trade

relations between England and the Philippines might long prosper and develop to the mutual advantage of the two countries.

The President in his response pledged his own cooperation and that of every member of the Administration “in maintaining and strengthening the bonds of friendship and good relations between our two countries and peoples.

After the presentation of credentials and the exchange of speeches the President presented Gibbs to the members of his Cabinet and to the Army top brass headed by Lieut. General Jesus Vargas. Gibbs in turn, presented his staff to the President and his official family. Then the President gave a toast to Queen Elizabeth and Gibbs gave a toast to the President.

Organization of the secretariat to formulate plans and devise ways and means for the appropriate holding of the Manila Conference of 1954 scheduled to begin September 6, was formalized this day by the President in Administrative Order No. 56.

Named secretary-general of the secretariat was Raul S. Manglapus, undersecretary of foreign affairs. The following were designated assistants to Manglapus: Minister Mauro Calingo, counsellor on administration and controls; Minister Cesar Lanuza, counsellor on economic affairs; Victorio Carpio, counsellor on legal affairs; Alberto Katigbak, chief, division of intelligence; and Jose Estrada, chief of protocol. All are from the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Press Secretary J. V. Cruz was designated conference information and publicity officer, while Juan Dionisio of the foreign service administration was named administrative officer of the secretariat.

The secretariat was given the power to call upon any government instrumentalities for any information and assistance it may need in the performance of its duties.

The President also ordered the liquidation of the assets and liabilities of the Land Settlement and Development Corporation (LASEDECO) and the subsequent transfer of its property, equipment, assets, and rights to the newly-created National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration (NARRA). The liquidation shall be effected by a board of liquidators created under a previous executive order. The LASEDECO was abolished a few months ago upon the activation of the NARRA.

According to the presidential order, the NARRA is directed to determine and to submit to the board of liquidators within 60 days a list of the assets and property of the LASEDECO which are needed by it in carrying out its purposes.

The Chief Executive today called upon all citizens and residents of the Philippines outside Greater Manila to assist whole-heartedly in a national fund drive which he had authorized the Girl Scouts of the Philippines to conduct from November 15 to December 30.

In authorizing the campaign, the President said that the GSP had “contributed immensely to the character development and citizenship training of the Filipino girls.”

The President also ordered the regulation of the exportation of rice bran (*darak*). The directive was an amendment to a presidential order “establishing rules and regulations to control, curtail, regulate, and/or prohibit the exportation or re-exportation of certain items from the Philippines.”

September 2.—THE PRESIDENT held a breakfast conference with Manuel Elizalde, chairman of the Peace and Amelioration Fund Campaign.

Later, he received Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez and officials of the Central Bank, including Deputy Governor Andres Castillo. The President told Secretary Hernandez and the CB officials to crack down on fake importers. He

said he would direct the solicitor general to revoke the Filipino citizenship of Manuel Ycasas, Chinese, if found guilty. He also said the Alex C. Young, another Chinese who was one of the masterminds, would be deported if also found guilty of inducing importers to fake licenses and invoices.

The two other masterminds of the racket are Luz P. Mendel and the office of Mr. and Mrs. Lucas Ramirez, Filipinos. The CB officials said that the offices of the masterminds were definitely established as the manufacturing centers for fake licenses and invoices. It was believed that names of genuine importers were included in the lists of the four masterminds for ulterior motives.

The President again followed a heavy schedule this morning. He received callers at his executive office continuously from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

A large delegation of labor leaders called to present a resolution seeking, among other things, the representation of labor in the boards of directors of government corporation, the expansion of the facilities of the Court of Industrial Relations, and the inclusion of subjects on labor on the curricula of colleges and universities.

The President said that as a matter of policy, he was in favor of placing labor leaders in government boards to look after the interest of workers. He assured the group that he would consider the appointment of labor representatives as soon as vacancies occur in any of the government corporations.

The labor delegation included Vicente Arniego, vice-president of the Philippine trade unions council; Jose J. Hernandez, general secretary; Generoso Madrigal, treasurer; and the following executive board members: Cipriano Cid, Vicente Rafael, Abelardo Santos, Ricardo Gregorio, and Antonio Morin.

Nat Fleischer, editor of *Ring Magazine*, called to pay his respect following his recent arrival in Manila in the course of a world tour. He was accompanied to Malacañang by Games and Amusement Board Chairman Manuel Nieto, Jr., and Felix Galang, *Ring* correspondent in the Philippines.

Francis Florence, vice-president and general manager of the Manila office of the National Lead Company, invited the President to inaugurate the company's new P1-million plant on Isaac Peral. Said to be the most modern in the Far East, the paint plant is scheduled to be inaugurated on September 10.

The committee created by the President some two months ago to investigate conditions at the Buenavista estate, called to submit its report and recommendations. The committee had been created by the President during one of his inspection visits to Bulacan, where he learned that some individuals had succeeded in acquiring large chunks of the government-owned estate.

The Buenavista investigating committee is composed of Manuel Castañeda, Malacañang assistant, Col. Climaco Pintoy, and Lt. Col, Eugenio D. Acab. The committee report is currently being studied by the President.

Members of the Catholic community of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, requested the retention of Fr. John P. Delaney as parish priest and spiritual adviser of the State University. The request was made following report that Fr. Delaney would be relieved of his duties with the institution. Headed by Prof. Nicolas Zafrá of the UP's history department, the Catholic group composed of instructors and students, informed the President that Fr. Delaney was doing a splendid job in the university. The group included Mrs. Nora Villanueva Daza of the home economics department, Miss Luis Lorenzo of the English Department, and Prof. Antonio de Leon of the chemistry department.

A delegation from Bataan headed by Gov. Adelmo Camacho requested national aid for various projects in the province, such as the construction of barrio roads, school buildings, and irrigation systems. Another delegation from Bigaa, Bulacan, headed by Vice-Mayor Eugenio del Rosario also requested P14,000 for an irrigation project in the municipality.

Other callers included a delegation from Cavite headed by Senator Justiniano S. Montano which took up some pressing needs of the province. Senator Gil Puyat, who received final instructions before leaving tonight for the United States to join the Bell mission, Senator Tomas Cabili, and Dr. Amando Dalisay of the National Economic Council.

The President, meanwhile, received a letter this morning from Timoteo Certeza, president and general manager of the Certeza Surveying Company, offering to donate the survey of the 2,000-hectare Corpus National Settlement in barrio San Ramon, Uson, Masbate, preparatory to issuance of titles to settlers. The donation which will include all the costs of the survey work, was in response to the President's appeal for public contributions to charitable organizations on the occasion of his 47th birthday.

In the afternoon, the President received a report from Lt. Col. Guillermo Santos of the JAGO that 118 tenants had already been screened and would be settled on the 850 hectares of land recently purchased by the Government in San Pedro Tunasan. Santos informed the President that the NARRA had released the sum of P10,000 for the construction of roads in the area to facilitate its development.

The President was pleased to know that out of the possible 200 tenants, the maximum number which can be accommodated in the settlement, 118 had already applied to settle in the place and had already been processed by NARRA. He ordered that fertilizers be given to the settlers in order to enable them to produce more crops from their lands.

The President was informed by Col. Santos that although the terrain was rolling, the soil was suitable for planting upland rice and the crop production was estimated to be twice that of lowland rice.

President Magsaysay's denunciation of the light penalty imposed on Huk chieftain Luis Taruc has found strong popular support among the people, Malacañang announced today. Numerous telegrams congratulating the President for his denunciation of the light penalty on Taruc have continuously poured into Malacañang from various sectors of the country. Said some of the telegrams:

Rosa Gardiner, from Los Baños, Laguna, said: "*Ang hatol kay Taruc ay tagumpay ng Komunista at ng Huk. Pinupuri namin kayo.*"

Vicente Cañeda of Cebu, said: "Cebuanos indignant over Taruc decision. Nation cries for justice."

The Mindoro College, from Calapan, said: "Indignantly protest against 12 years sentence of Taruc."

Governor Arsenio Lugay of Tarlac, said: "Informing you that people of Tarlac province are not satisfied with the penalty imposed on Huk Supremo Taruc."

Nicolas Dizon, from Sta. Rosa, Laguna, said: "Your fight against Judge Narvasa's decision is one of the people's."

Maria Carpena, from Sta Rosa, Laguna, said: "Considering enormity of Taruc's crime, death penalty still too lenient."

Arsenio Dizon, from San Pablo City, said: "What is 12 years compared with terrible crimes committed by Taruc? We endorse your fight against it."

Jaime Gador from Tanza, Cavite, said: "More power to the saviour of freedom. Taruc should get stiffer penalty."

B. Mendoza, from Indang, Cavite, said: "People thankful for your unwavering stand against court decision."

The Basak Chapter of the Cebu Citizen's Committee for Good Government said: "Taruc decision document of surrender."

The President felt indignant when he received reports in the evening that an artesian well was being constructed inside his father's yard in barrio Baring, Castillejos, Zambales. He got hold of a nearby telephone, contacted Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa and Health Secretary Paulino Garcia, and told them to stop the work and transfer the well to the town plaza where the public can use it.

September 3.—OWING to the worsening rice situation, the President summoned the Cabinet to a special meeting at 10:20 in the morning. At the Cabinet meeting, the President announced his decision to import 100,000 tons of rice and issued Proclamation No. 61, declaring a state of calamity in Occidental Negros and Bacolod City, where the rice situation was reported serious.

The President and his Cabinet during the special meeting took swift and resolute steps to solve the rice problems by approving:

- (1) The importation of 100,000 tons of rice, 50,000 tons of which are for immediate delivery and the balance to be imported if and when the NARIC boards of directors would recommend such action; and
- (2) The issuance by the President of a proclamation declaring the existence of a public calamity in the Province of Occidental Negros and in the City of Bacolod, declaring in full force and effect in that region the provisions of Act No. 4164.

These bold and swift measures were taken by the Chief Executive and his Cabinet in view of alarming reports of rice hoarding and soaring rice prices.

As the Cabinet opened its session at 10:20, the President immediately plunged into a discussion of the rice problem. He requested a detailed report on the status of the negotiations for the importation of rice by private parties using their own capital but aided by the NARIC.

Economic Coordination Administrator Alfredo Montelibano reported that two rice importers had already signed contracts to bring in a total of 10,000 tons of rice and that another party was agreeable to bring in an additional 10,000 tons. This rice would be sold to the public at P.60 a ganta.

Upon being informed by Montelibano that the country would need a total of 100,000 tons of rice to fill the present rice needs, the President and the Cabinet approved the importation of 50,000 tons of rice for immediate delivery and the remaining 50,000 tons to be ordered later, if and when the NARIC board of directors should recommend it.

The Cabinet further decided that the rice to be imported should be apportioned among such rice importers who in the opinion of the board are in the best position to comply with the conditions that would best serve the interest of the country and the people.

The President emphasized that the mechanics of such allocations among the rice importers should be the responsibility of the NARIC board of directors and of the economic coordination administrator, who has overall supervision over the NARIC.

The President took a bold step in signing Proclamation No. 62, declaring the existence of a public calamity in Negros Occidental and in the City of Bacolod. The President was prompted to make this order in view of wide-spread reports that the price of rice in Bacolod had soared to P1.40 per ganta and that the cereal was being hoarded. The President had also received reports that the same tendency was obtaining in other parts of the country.

The President was informed that there was scarcity of rice and palay in Occidental Negros and Bacolod caused by the long nation-wide drought which had prevented the farmers in the rice-producing regions from planting in due time. This situation, worsened by the hoarding of rice and palay by some owners and dealers of rice in that province, had resulted in a rice crisis in that province and had rendered more difficult the means of livelihood of the people

there. Such a state of things has caused deep concern and fear among the people in that region and, unless effective measures were immediately taken to cope with the emergency, panic and disorders would ensue.

In his proclamation, the Chief Executive declared a public calamity existed in Negros Occidental and declared in full force and effect the provisions of Act No. 4164, which prevents excessive increase in the prices of certain prime necessities of life on the occasion of a public calamity, penalizing the violation thereof.

The Chief Executive ordered the commander of the Philippine Constabulary of Occidental Negros to seize any stock of rice or palay in excess of 100 cavanes that is hidden or hoarded for profiteering purposes. The seized stocks will be delivered to the representative of the PRISCO in Bacolod City, to be sold and disposed to the public in accordance with law, and the proceeds of the sale at legal price shall be reimbursed to the respective owners of the rice or palay.

During the Cabinet meeting, the President also approved the sending of a four-man delegation to the Community Development Conference to be held in India sometime in September. The Philippine delegation will be composed of Miss Josefina Fernandez of the Social Welfare Administration, Nicolas Peñamora of the Department of Agriculture, Vicente Garcia of the Education Department, and Demetrio Lacuna of the Health Department.

The Cabinet meeting lasted from 10:20 a.m. to 12:10 p.m.

After the Cabinet meeting, the President inspected the samples of 3-inch and 6-inch mechanical and electrical pumps locally manufactured by the NASSCO, to be used for irrigation purposes.

President Magsaysay sometime ago had suggested to NASSCO Manager Bernardo Abrera to try manufacturing these pumps in the NASSCO shops. Abrera said that the NASSCO had finished these pumps last Tuesday, August 31, and he had wanted to present them to the President as a birthday present from the NASSCO.

The President watched the mechanical pumps, which were installed near the bank of the Pasig River, pump out water from the river.

In the afternoon, the President called an army dentist from the V. Luna Hospital and submitted himself for much needed dental treatment. A Palace aide said that the President had been feeling uneasy the whole day owing to toothache.

In the evening, the President received U. S. State Secretary John Foster Dulles at Malacañang for a preliminary exchange of views on the SEATO and the P.I.-U.S. Mutual Defense Pact.

Scheduled to arrive at 8 p.m., Secretary Dulles showed up at 8:10 p.m. He was accompanied by U. S. Ambassador Raymond Spruance, Minister William Lacy, and Counselor Douglas MacArthur II, head of the American technical panel to the SEATO talks. Secretary Dulles was escorted by Col. Napoleon Valeriano, chief military aide to the President, to the Palace music room, where he waited for President Magsaysay.

Two minutes later, the President appeared, extending an eager hand to the distinguished guest with a cordial greeting: "How do you do, Mr. Secretary?"

Secretary Dulles responded with a smile and remarked: "We met three years ago, Mr. President, at the American Embassy."

While news cameramen continuously snapped shots of them, the President and Secretary Dulles exchanged amenities. Drinks were served. The U.S. State Secretary and members of his party stayed for dinner.

Upon arrival at the Manila International Airport at 6 this afternoon, Secretary Dulles expressed confidence that both the mutual defense talks and the Southeast Asian defense discussion would be fruitful "in the atmosphere of freedom

and independence” in this country. He underscored the need for hiking Philippine-United States mutual defense efforts and the importance of the eight-nation conference opening Monday.

Manila, Mr. Dulles said, has cause to be proud of being the “seat of one of the most important conferences of our times.” He added, “I hope and believe that in this atmosphere of freedom and independence, we shall find ways to contribute to the freedom and independence of others.”

Before presiding over the Cabinet meeting at 10 a.m., the President received Raul Bonnevie, representative of Norson Co., and Pakistan exporter Suliman Bayat, who showed the Chief Executive a cooked sample of the rice that Norson Co. wanted to import from Pakistan.

The President tasted the cooked rice and expressed approval. The rice, of the joshie variety, will be imported by the Norson Co. through the NARIC and will be sold to the public at P.60 a ganta.

Rep. Enrique Corpus of Zambales accompanied a delegation of the League of Women Voters which came to invite the President to attend their convention on September 18. The convention will feature the giving of awards 10 deserving citizens. The delegation was headed by Mrs. Paz Catolico and Mrs. Virginia Sanchez.

Another contribution to the Liberty Wells fund was also received by the President when Mr. and Mrs. Vicente Dy Sun handed to the Chief Executive a check for P1, 000.

President Magsaysay this day also directed the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes to give P15,000 out of its funds for the construction of a puericulture center in Caloocan, Rizal. The President issued the directive after conferring briefly with a delegation from Caloocan headed by Mayor and Mrs. Macario Asistio.

The Chief Executive started receiving callers at 9 a.m. He received Senators Lorenzo Sumulong, Quintin Paredes, and Lorenzo Tañada, Rep. Wenceslao Lagumbay, and Governor Dominador Chipeco of Laguna.

A delegation of provincial officials of Cebu also called on the President and discussed with him problems affecting their province. Those in the group were Senate President Protempore Manuel Briones, Rep. Pedro Lopez, Gov. Sergio Osmeña, Jr., Acting Gov. Fructuso Cabahug (who will serve in the absence of Gov. Osmeña, who is going abroad), and Board Members Pedro Calderon and Celestino Paulino.

The President also signed Proclamation No. 62, exempting certain items from the payment of excise tax on foreign exchange. The President issued the proclamation in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 1197, signed by the President, August 28, 1954.

In the proclamation, the President decreed new exemptions from the payment of the 17 per cent special excise tax on foreign exchange, sold and/or authorized to be sold by the Central Bank of the Philippines or any of its agents for the following items effective Friday, September 3:

- (1) Remittances in payment of cattle and cocoa beans;
- (2) Remittances by airlines of American registry operating between the Philippines and the United States of income in the Philippines to their head offices in the United States; provided that such airlines have been granted a permit to operate under the Air Transport Agreement between the United States and the Philippines prior to the enactment of Republic Act No. 601:
- (3) Remittances for payment of living expenses of students pursuing studies abroad, not exceeding the equivalent of \$250 a month, including payment of tuition, books, medical expenses, and other school fees; and
- (4) Dollar allocations for one trip a year and not exceeding \$300 for each Moro pilgrim traveling abroad under permit of the Government.

September 4.—PRESIDENT MAGSAYSAY devoted this day to SEATO affairs, receiving delegates and attending conferences in connection with the Manila Conference of 1954.

At 9:30 a.m., the President received U.S. Secretary John Foster Dulles, accompanied by Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently foreign affairs secretary, and U.S. Ambassador Raymond Spruance. Secretary Dulles was greeted by an honor guard who played for him both the Philippine and the American national anthems.

President Magsaysay and Secretary Dulles conferred for 30 minutes. Then the two went to the Council of State room where the P.I. and U.S. panels were gathered for the mutual defense talks.

After witnessing the ceremony opening the mutual defense confab, the President left and retired to his private study, where he worked on state papers.

President Magsaysay did not receive any callers or schedule any appointments except those which had something to do with the SEATO and the defense talks. He wanted to make himself available for consultation by Philippine representatives on these vital confabs.

Earlier, at 9 a.m., the President received Prince Wan Waithayakon, Thailand foreign minister, who came to Malacañang accompanied by Nai Chitti Sucharitakul, Thailand minister to the Philippines. After acknowledging the ruffles and flourishes offered by an honor guard formed by unit of the Presidential Guards, the Prince was shown to the study room where the President received him.

The Thailand Prince stayed with the President for 10 minutes. In their brief conversation, the Prince conveyed to the President the greetings from the King of Thailand and offered toasts to the President's good health and to the continued friendship between the Philippines and Thailand. Mr. Magsaysay responded with a toast for the King of Thailand. The Prince said he regretted the Prince's inability to stay here until the end of the SEATO talks, as he was scheduled to leave for the U.S. to prepare for the coming session of the U.N. General Assembly.

At 12:30 p.m., the President and Mrs. Magsaysay entertained Secretary and Mrs. Dulles at a luncheon at Malacañang to which high P.I. Government officials, officials of the American Embassy, American delegates to the SEATO, and top brass of the P.I. and U.S. armed forces and their ladies were also invited.

The luncheon over, the President again retired to his private study, where he helped in the issuance of a joint communique of the P.I.-U.S. military council. He took a brief rest late in the afternoon.

The President called U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles "the most courageous fighter for peace" in the world today when he proposed a toast to the health of Secretary and Mrs. Dulles at the luncheon. Directly addressing Secretary Dulles, the President told him: "I wish to assure you, Mr. Secretary, that 20,000,000 Filipinos are behind you in your efforts to preserve the dignity and freedom of mankind.

After pointing out that he did not particularly care to deliver speeches, the President said he was making an exception of this occasion because he wanted to be "as forceful as I can be in expressing our gratification that we have been honored by the presence of Secretary and Mrs. Dulles." The President expressed hope that the couple's stay in the Philippines will be more than a stopover. "We hope that we can make them feel at home," he said.

In response, Secretary Dulles said he was happy that the SEATO Conference was to be held in Manila, because it would serve to underscore the success achieved by President Magsaysay in the fight against tyranny.

Secretary Dulles told the President: "You have gained a stature in the world which is recognized everywhere." He added: "When many men were indecisive and weak, you emerged with those qualities which have enabled some men to stand above the rest."

Secretary Dulles also said that the mutual defense talks between the Philippine and the U.S. panels served to point up to the whole world that the two countries enjoyed “a very special relationship.” While the United States maintained friendly relations with other free countries, Secretary Dulles said, this did not detract from the fact that “there is something special between our two countries.”

Acknowledging the President’s reference to his efforts in behalf of peace, the U.S. State Secretary said he was laboring not for peace alone but for “peace with honor.” He said he was glad that the Filipino and American peoples were determined “to stand firm and fast for the things which cannot be surrendered without sacrifice of dignity and national honor.”

He added that President Magsaysay was one man who had a “clear understanding of the true nature of the kind of peace” that the free world desired.

Secretary Dulles concluded by offering a toast to the health of President Magsaysay, “who stands as a great figure in his own country and beyond.” The State Secretary also toasted Mrs. Magsaysay.

September 5.— AFTER hearing mass and eating a light breakfast, the President closeted himself at his study and pored over a pile of state papers.

Later, the President received Luis A. Frogatu, assistant chief of intelligence of the Central Bank, who reported that he arrested a former official of the defunct Import Control Commission who had been impersonating a government agent and “investigating” some importers at their offices downtown. Found in the man’s possession were papers purportedly showing that he was a CB and PCAC agent. The President ordered Acting CB Governor Andres Castillo to go hard after persons posing as CB agents and reportedly “investigating” some local importers in connection with the current drive against fake importers.

About 10 a.m., the President and Mrs. Magsaysay boarded the plane *Pagasa* and flew to Castillejos, Zambales. The President went to Castillejos to carry on a yearly practice of spending his birthday in his hometown with his parents. In his last birthday, the President could not visit his parents because of his stay with the troops in the field.

At the Castillejos airstrip, the Chief Executive started to hike toward the town until a jeep of his younger brother, Jesus Magsaysay, arrived to pick him up and the First Lady. They proceeded to the Presidents house in barrio Baring, where the President’s parents and relatives were awaiting their arrival.

Before lunch time, the President motored to the town to visit the remains of an old friend, Mariano Gabinete, who had been shot and killed the night before in his home in Castillejos. After condoling with the family of the deceased, the President left for San Marcelino, where he stopped to inspect the new puericulture center building. He was accompanied by Mayor Juanito Colorado.

The President returned to barrio Baring for lunch. He and the First Lady enjoyed *diningding*, an Ilocano dish prepared by the President’s mother.

At 3:30 p.m., the President and party flew back to Manila aboard the *Pagasa*.

September 6.—PRESIDENT MAGSAYSAY formally opened in the morning the Manila Conference of 1954. Accompanied by Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez, Ambassador Felino Neri, Col. Napoleon D. Valeriano, and two other presidential aides, the President left the Palace about 10:30 a.m.

At the entrance of the convention hall in the Legislative Building, the President was greeted by the chiefs of the delegations of the eight nations participating in the conference. He was escorted through the hall and to the rostrum amidst ovation from the delegates and spectators from the galleries.

At 10:36 a.m., following an introduction by Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, presiding officer of the conference, President Magsaysay started delivering his seven-minute speech which he read slowly for clarity and emphasis.

In his address, the President asked the Democracies to keep themselves strong and vigilant. He said the free peoples should act jointly to repel aggression. He suggested a three-point objectives for the SEATO and then concluded his address thus: "May the divine wisdom of the Almighty guide your deliberations to achieve peace and freedom for all." It was the shortest speech delivered at the opening day of the conference. (See *Historical Papers, and Documents*, pp. 4157-4158, for the full text of the President's address.)

Malacañang After acknowledging a standing ovation from the delegates, the President went down the rostrum and walked briskly out of the Chamber into his waiting car. He was back to Malacañang shortly before 11 a.m.

The President spent the rest of the morning in his study. He cancelled all appointments for the day in order to be able to devote his time to pending state papers and to matters concerning the Manila Conference.

In the afternoon, the President was in constant contact with the Philippine panel at the Conference hall through a direct telephone line installed in his study. He left Malacañang late in the afternoon for an undisclosed place where he intended to work undisturbed.

Sources close to Malacañang said in the evening that the President may ask some members of the NARIC board of directors to resign to give way to a complete reorganization of the firm. The President may take this step, it was said further, in view of reports he had received that some NARIC board members who are rice producers have been delaying the importation of rice which had been ordered by the Cabinet previously.

The President was reported to have stated that the lack of rice in the country was what had prompted him to allow the importation of rice. The move, the President said, was not aimed to fight rice producers but rather to give a lesson to rice hoarders and profiteers.

By authority of the President, Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro sent a wire to Baguio this day suspending Chief of Police Pedro Z. Claravall. The cause of the suspension was not mentioned in the wire.

At the same time, Secretary Castro informed Maj. Francisco Paraon that "President Magsaysay had designated you as acting chief of police of Baguio during the suspension of the regular incumbent (Claravall).

Secretary Castro instructed Claravall to turn over his office to Paraon, who was sworn into office at 5:30 in the afternoon by City Mayor Alfonso Tabora.

September 7.—THE PRESIDENT cancelled again his scheduled appointments this day to be able to devote his time and attention to the current Manila Conference of 1954. After having an early breakfast, he closeted himself in his study, where he was in constant contact with Philippine delegates to the confab, through a direct telephone line.

About 10 a.m., the President and the First Lady left the Palace for a ride around the Luneta, either for relaxation or to avoid callers.

The President designated this day Public Works Undersecretary Juan G. Paraiso, concurrently commissioner of the Bureau of Public Highways.

Previously a mere division under the Bureau of Public Works, the new bureau was created by Congress during its last session to implement the five-year multi-million-peso highway program of the Administration. It is charged with the planning of a national highway program and the administration of extensive highway expenditures.

The new bureau will conduct studies in highway financing and construction and in the repair and maintenance of national highways. It will cooperate with other agencies for the construction of rural and feeder roads.

In the afternoon, the President worked on pending state papers, then took a brief nap. Later he received Malacañang adviser on foreign affairs Felino Neri and Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez, who called to apprise him about the doings at the SEATO conference.

The President continued working on pending state papers up to early evening.

September 7.—THE PRESIDENT this morning received ministers T. Clifton Webb of New Zealand, Mahummad Zafrulla Khan of Pakistan, and Guy La Chambre of France, who called at Malacañang separately to pay their respects. The Presidents congratulated the ministers, who head their respective delegations to the Manila Conference of 1954, for having accomplished so much in a few days. The ministers, in turn, thanked the President for the warm hospitality and attention they were receiving during their brief stay in Manila.

All three ministers invited the President to visit their respective countries. They assured him that their government and people would only be too glad to welcome the Philippine Chief Executive. The President thanked the foreign ministers for their invitations. He said he would like very much to pay visits to friendly countries and spread goodwill for the Philippines but that he did not know when he could do so, as there was much yet to be done in this country.

The calls of the ministers were, for the most part, devoted to candid discussion of matters of common interest to the Philippines and their respective countries. Minister Webb told the President about New Zealand's dairy industry. Minister Khan explained techniques of irrigation practised in Pakistan, where the Philippines obtains part of its rice supply. Minister La Chambre made some elucidations on French foreign policy, particularly in Asia.

The President received the ministers in his study. The call of the minister of New Zealand lasted from 8:15 to 8:25 a.m., the minister of Pakistan from 8:30 to 8:38 a.m., and the French minister from 8:42 to 8:55 a.m. They were escorted to the President's study by Jose S. Estrada, chief protocol officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Earlier in the morning, the President received Mariano V. del Rosario, Lions International councilor, who called to inform him that \$24,000-worth of galvanized iron pipes, enough for the construction of 40 artesian wells, had been donated by the California and the Nevada Lions for the Presidents rural improvement program.

Other callers included Senator Justiniano S. Montano, Robert Cromwell, Gil Carlos, and Manuel "Dindo" Gonzalez.

The President presided over the regular weekly Cabinet meeting from 10:30 to 12:30 p.m.

During the two-and-a-half hour Cabinet meeting, the President made two important announcements regarding further solution of the rice problem; namely,

1. That the sum of P30 million has been made available by the Government for the direct purchase of palay from small tenants and farmers, and
2. That the rice importers who had already signed contracts for the importation of 50,000 tons of rice should open immediately letters of credit with the Philippine National Bank, which had agreed to accept the guarantee of the NARIC. This insures early arrival of the imported stocks.

The President also directed Secretary of Justice Pedro Tuason to rush action on all cases already investigated by the different probing teams and to supervise personally the prosecution of these cases. He repeated emphatically, "the prosecution of the cases, not persecution of the persons."

The President called the attention of Secretary Tuason regarding the reports of various investigating committees appointed recently to look into several alleged anomalies in the government. He mentioned investigations made on the Caledonia Pile, the Guam labor employment, the FIMCO, the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation, the LASEDECO, and other cases similarly investigated.

The announcement that the Government has available P30 million to purchase palay direct from small tenants and farmers was a three-pronged attack aimed at providing sufficient NARIC stocks to stabilize the price of rice, protecting poor producers from the usurious practices of middlemen who advance the money to them at a very much lower price than the actual price of palay at harvest time, and minimizing the activities of hoarders.

The President said that this plan should be given top priority implementation. He directed the NARIC, the ACCFA, the PRISCO, and the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources to utilize their offices and coordinate their efforts in making those direct purchases from small tenants and farmers.

The Chief Executive said that if the tenants had already borrowed money from their landlords with their future palay shares as security, they could sell their palay direct to the government at the government buying price and pay only legal rates of interest to their landlords.

The President directed Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta to make a study of a fair floor price for palay to be announced later.

Regarding the 50,000 tons of rice contracts which had already been signed, Economic Coordination Administrator Alfredo Montelibano reported to the President that the banks would not accept the guarantee of the NARIC which is necessary in the accomplishment of the contract. The NARIC guarantee is to the effect that the NARIC will pay the importers of rice whatever stocks are unsold 90 days after the arrival of the stocks in Manila.

In connection with this matter, Arsenio Jison, president of the Philippine National Bank; Dr. Andres Castillo, deputy governor of the Central Bank; NARIC General Manager Juan O. Chioco; and NARIC Hoard Director Conrado Estrella were requested to attend the Cabinet meeting to help resolve this hitch in the early arrival of the imported rice.

After consultation with the Cabinet, Jison said that the PNB would accept the NARIC guarantee as stipulated in the contract. The President then told Montelibano to inform the importers to open immediately letters of credit with the PNB. This solved the last difficulty in the rice importation.

The President congratulated NARIC General Manager Juan O. Chioco for doing his best to help solve the rice problem. The President said Chioco was first a Filipino, then a rice producer.

President Magsaysay also told Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa to study the project of ordering 50 turbine pumps every month for distribution among the rice producing regions of the Philippines. It is believed that with the use of these turbine pumps, the irrigation problem, which is a very important factor in rice production, will be solved and that this will contribute to the rice sufficiency of the Philippines.

The Cabinet also approved the request of Social Welfare Administrator Pacita M. Warns for authority to proceed with the formal arrangements for the holding of the UN Regional Conference on community development for South and Southeast Asia to be held in Manila from November 29 to December 10, 1954. These arrangements include the formation of committees and other preparations to insure the success of the conference.

Dr. Querubin Fulgencio, medical technical assistant of the UNICEF programs of the Philippines, was designated liaison officer.

During the Cabinet meeting, Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., chairman of the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines, constituted a committee chairmanned by Regent Vicente Lontok to conduct an intramural survey of the State University with a view to reorganizing it.

The committee was charged with the duty of looking into, the various aspects of the University work and to submit recommendations to the Board of Regents for such changes as might be deemed necessary to effect greater

efficiency and economy in the U. P. The committee will also find ways of gearing certain activities of the University more directly and effectively to the rural, economic, and industrial program of the government.

Aside from Regent Lontok as chairman, the other members of the committee are Regent Arturo Garcia, Regent Modesto Farolan, Dean Vicente G. Sinco, and Dean L. B. Uichanco.

Education Secretary Hernandez authorized the U. P. President to permit the committee to utilize the records, facilities, and personnel of the University in connection with its work.

In the afternoon, the President worked on pending state papers. He also sent a message to Cebu City for former President Sergio Osmeña on the occasion of the latter's 76th birthday. President Magsaysay also wired a message of condolence to Jose Yulo in Paris, expressing his "deepest" sympathy on the death of Mrs. Yulo, who died of high blood pressure in her bedroom in the Hotel Gaza Athelee in Paris, Monday night, September 6.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Magsaysay gave a state dinner at the Malacañang social hall in honor of the heads of delegations to the Manila Conference of 1954. Included in the long list of invited guests besides the honorees were members of different foreign legations in the Philippines, congressional leaders, and other high-ranking government dignitaries. (See p. 4162 for the text of the Presidents' extemporaneous remarks during the State dinner.)

September 9.—WISHING to have more time for the expected calls of delegates to the Manila Conference of 1954, President Magsaysay again put off appointments with several listed callers in the morning. The President received four chief delegates to the Manila Conference who called on him prior to their departure for their respective countries.

Australian Minister of External Affairs R. G. Casey, accompanied by Minister George Dunbar Moore, called on the President at 11 a.m. and extended an invitation to the Chief Executive to send a Filipino expert to study cattle breeding in Australia. Minister Casey also presented the President with an autographed book entitled *Friends and Neighbors* written by Minister Casey himself.

After the Australian minister, the President received Lord Reading of England, who was accompanied by British Ambassador Sir Frank Gibbs. The President and Lord Reading talked about the world situation. Upon learning that Lord Reading needed some rest, the President offered to him the Mansion House in Baguio if he would stay in the Philippines for a few days yet

Prince Wan of Thailand came after Lord Reading. The President inquired about the method used in planting rice in Thailand from Prince Wan.

When asked by the President what he thought about the final agreement on the SEATO, Prince Wan said that it was good "because the peoples of Asia should understand each other through some common belief."

The President then received New Zealand Minister of External Affairs T. Clifton Webb, who is at the same time the minister of justice, minister of island territories, and attorney general. The President was impressed by the method used in New Zealand for producing butter. Minister Webb was the last to call on the President.

The SEATO chief delegates were all accompanied by Foreign Office Protocol Officer Jose Estrada.

Earlier in the morning, Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez and Senator Ruperto Kangleon called on the President. Another early caller was Manila Archbishop Rufino Santos, who presented to the President some gifts, rosary and medals, from "Rome. The Archbishop arrived recently from Rome.

A delegation of the Women's Citizen Committee for Good Government from San Luis, Pampanga, saw the President for the construction of a puericulture center in their town. The President sent a directive to Philippine

Charity Sweepstakes Board Chairman Manuel “Dindo” Gonzalez to release P10 000 for the puericulture center of San Luis. Heading the delegation of WCCGG was Mrs. Natividad Dungo, chairman.

Other callers of the President were Governor Dominador Chipeco of Laguna, Judge Menardo Farol, and Mrs. Concepcion Aguila.

A group of rice importers saw the President before he received the SEATO chief delegates. They expressed their desire to import rice for local consumption. The President told them to sit down with Economic Coordination Administrator Alfredo Montelibano and NARIC General Manager Juan O. Chioco.

In the afternoon, the President gave a party at Malacañang in honor of the newspapermen, foreign correspondents, and news photographers who had covered the Manila Conference.

In the evening a statement was issued by the President on the United States-Philippine Council meet on September 4 and the Manila Conference on September 6-8. In this statement, the Chief Executive stressed that “the other free states of Asia can find nothing objectionable in the Manila Treaty and the Pacific Charter. He should like them to know,” he said, “that they would find warm and fraternal welcome in the organization.”

The President observed that the security of the Philippines, of the entire Southeast Asia, and of the Southwest Pacific has been considerably strengthened with the affirmation of the P.I.-U.S. Mutual Defense Pact and the signing of the Manila Treaty. He pointed to the importance of these two treaties in making the Philippines and this part of Asia a powerful bulwark of Democracy against Communist or any other kind of aggression. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 416-4166 and 4163-416, respectively, for the full text of the President’s statement and that of U S Secretary of State Dulles sent to Vice-President Garcia before leaving the Philippines.)

In the evening A. L. Valencia, information officer of the Philippine Embassy in Washington and the Philippine Association, called to report to the President on the situation in Washington. According to Valencia President Magsaysay has become very popular not only in Washington but throughout the United States. He said there is eagerness among Americans to see the Philippine Chief Executive visit the United States.

Regarding the Philippine Embassy, Valencia reported that Minister Raul Leuterio has done much in boosting the morale of the Embassy staff since he took over.

After his call on the President, Valencia was heard to remark: “He’s the same regular guy.”

September 10.—STARTING the day with a breakfast with JUSMAG Chief General and Mrs. Robert M. Cannon, the President received callers until past noon. Most of the callers were senators and representatives who consulted the President on matters affecting their provinces.

Among those who called were Senators Tomas Cabili and Alejo Mabanag; Reps. Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo, Roseller Lim of Zamboanga, Wenceslao Lagumbay of Laguna, Celestino Juan of Nueva Ecija, Domingo Veloso of Leyte, Leon Guinto, Jr., of Quezon, Rizal Governor Wenceslao Pascual; Mrs. Jose Roy; and Director Luis Montilla of Public Libraries.

Rep. Guinto accompanied Peregrino Natividad, an old NP leader of Katanawan, Quezon, who came to pay a visit to the President. With Governor Pascual was Parañaque Mayor Nicanor Cruz.

The President approved the suspension of the ejection proceedings against some squatters on the friar land at the corner of Quezon Boulevard and Lerma after representations made by Rep. Arturo M. Tolentino.

The ejection cases against the squatters were pending in court, and Rep. Tolentino requested the President to suspend the ejection proceedings until further arrangements were made. Tolentino, together with Reps. Angel

Castaño and Augusto Francisco of Manila, called on the President to discuss with the Chief Executive some problems affecting their districts.

The President also approved the reinstatement of Isidro Wenceslao as member of the Board on Pension for Veterans of the Revolution following a request made by the officers and members of the *Asociación de los Veteranos de la Revolución*.

Members of the association who called on the President were Francisco Enage, Ramon Fernandez, Eduardo Gutierrez David, and Benito David. They were accompanied by Senator Francisco A. Delgado.

The President this day directed Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta to formulate plans and take charge of all activities relative to the forestry conference which he had ordered held in Manila from September 30 to October 2. The directive to Araneta and the calling of the forestry conference were embodied in Proclamation No. 63.

The President in issuing the order said that he had the conference called to put a stop to “the wanton destruction of forest resources which has been going on through illegal *kaingin* making and destructive logging practices.

The conference which is scheduled to be attended by local forestry directors was instructed “not only to stop the destruction of our forest resources but also to find ways and means for the orderly utilization and proper preservation of these resources.”

Araneta was empowered by the President to seek assistance and information from any agency or instrumentality of the government in connection with the purpose of the conference.

The President also issued Executive Order No. 63, organizing the municipality of Kidapawan, Cotabato, into an independent municipality under the name of Makilala.

In the evening, the President created a rice purchasing committee to map out a systematic and efficient program of country-wide direct buying of palay, especially from small farmers and tenants during the coming harvest. The creation of the committee was a further implementation of the President’s announcement in last Wednesday’s Cabinet meeting that the government had made available the sum of P30 million for purchasing palay this coming harvest.

The local purchase of palay and the importation of 100,000 tons of rice comprise the two-phased program of the Administration to solve the rice problem. Both measures were approved by the Cabinet in its last meeting.

Named chairman of the rice purchasing committee was Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta with the following members: NARIC General Manager Juan O. Chioco, ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo, PEISCO General Manager Ismael Mathay, Public Schools Director Venancio Trinidad, and PC Chief Florencio Selga.

President Magsaysay said that the committee would study all angles involved in the nation-wide plan to purchase palay direct from the small producers themselves. Such aspects of the plan, like warehousing, transportation, and wide-spread dissemination of information of this government activity to reach the farmers in the remotest barrios, the President added, would be explored to insure the success of this palay-buying program.

The President said that the government planned to buy palay at from P9 to P10 a cavan, depending on the region and on the quality and variety of the palay. He said that the government, in protecting the small tenants and farmers, would at the same time take into account the interests of the producers.

The President also flashed the “go ahead” signal to investigators looking into the alleged smuggling into the country of some 20 tons of assorted goods from Japan, supposed to have been consigned to the Armed Forces general headquarters’ central post exchange.

In an impromptu interview with newsmen Friday evening, before boarding the yacht *Pagasa* for a week-end trip, the President said that he wanted the investigators to go into the core of the case, irrespective of whoever might get hurt. He added that whoever would be found guilty should be prosecuted in accordance with the law. He commented that the Administration's "new look" would not tolerate any corrupt practices in the government.

Digressing from the subject matter, President Magsaysay told the newsmen that in his trip last Sunday to his hometown, Castillejos, Zambales, he had noticed that the road leading to the barrio farm of his father was being asphalted. He said he became indignant on seeing the road being asphalted ahead of the more important roads, like the national highway and the provincial roads.

The President said he ordered the district engineer to stop asphaltting the barrio road leading to his father's farm and finish first all the other roads in the province. "I used to walk that dirt road leading to my father's farm since I was seven years old and I have not been the worse for it," he said.

President Magsaysay this day received a cablegram from former Speaker Jose Yulo, who said "your very kind telegram of condolence has deeply touched me and I hasten to express to you my deepest appreciation for your thoughtfulness in remembering me in my hour of bereavement."

The President had sent a cablegram of condolence to former Speaker Yulo for the death of Mrs. Yulo in Paris.

September 11.—PRESIDENT MAGSAYSAY spent this day in his hometown, Castillejos, Zambales. As he was out of the city, all his scheduled appointments were cancelled.

Upon the President's arrival in Castillejos, he learned that some rumors of war were being circulated in provincial areas which caused "fear and confusion among our people." He immediately issued a statement to allay the unfounded fears of provincial folks, branding these rumors as completely false and malicious." He urged that these false and malicious rumors be stopped because they are harmful and costly to the people and to the nation."

From Castillejos, the President radioed in the morning his written statement on the war situation, assuring the people that war was not coming. In his statement the President said that if any crisis should ever arise, "the people will hear of it quickly from official sources—not from marketplace gossip." The statement said: "The truth is, thanks to such measures as our new defense pact, there is less danger of war today than there has been for many months. And as the free nations strengthen their defenses, the danger of war will grow even less. Aggressors attack only when the victim shows weakness." (See pp. 4166-4167 for the full text of the President's statement.)

Upon the President's instructions, Malacañang likewise released Executive Order No. 40-A, instituting the *Golden Heart* presidential award for the purpose of giving official recognition to services rendered and contributions given for the uplift of the masses.

The award shall be presented to any individual, organization, or entity, here or abroad, that has rendered meritorious and distinguished services or contributed noteworthy monetary or other material aid and encouragement to the campaign of the Government for the amelioration and improvement of the moral, social, and economic conditions of the masses, especially in the rural areas.

As ordered by the President, the *Golden Heart* medal shall have on its obverse two outstretched hands offering to the people a golden heart. Below, the motto and theme of the award, *Manum Tuam Ayervit Inope*, a brief four-word Latin interpretation of Proverbs 31:20, "She hath opened her heart to the needy and stretched forth her hands to the poor," will be printed.

Surrounding the design will be the legends: The Golden Heart Presidential Award. The reverse of the medal shall bear the presidential seal rimmed by a plain border on which the name of the recipient may be engraved. The medal will be of gilded bronze.

In the case of individual awards, the medal and ribbon will be presented. As for organizations or entities, a simple narra plaque on which the obverse and reverse of the medal are placed, will be given.

The award will not be limited to those giving large financial contributions, as there are “smaller aids which may represent comparatively equal or even greater sacrifices on the part of the donor.”

In issuing the order, the President said that the medal, though of little intrinsic value, “should be something which will be a valued and honored heirloom for the recipients to hand down to their successors.”

In the evening, the President sent another radiogram from Castillejos, turning down the resignation of Juan O. Chioco, as NARIC general manager and chairman of its board of directors, and holding under advisement the resignation of three NARIC board members.

Chioco had previously submitted his resignation to the President, but it was not only turned down but instead Chioco was appointed the previous night member of the newly-created rice-purchasing committee, which would purchase palay direct from small tenants and farmers on a nation-wide scale.

This day Chioco submitted his resignation for the second time from the NARIC together with NARIC members of the board of directors, Felix de la Costa, Conrado Estrella, and Sergio Ortiz Luis.

September 12.—THE PRESIDENT unexpectedly returned to Manila from Castillejos very early in the morning. Together with his family, he heard an early mass at the Malacañang chapel. After breakfast with his family, he worked on state papers.

Later in the morning, impressed by the report he received of the killing of Lazaro Suva, *alias* Huk Commander Nelson, and the capture of his followers by a unit of the 1st MA, the President motored to Camp Olivas to congratulate staff officers and their men for their new achievement in the peace-and-order campaign.

Arriving at the camp at about 10 a.m., the President talked to Brig. General Manuel Cabal, who brought before the Chief Executive three of the companions of slain Huk Commander Nelson; namely, Eleuterio Suva, *alias* Darna, brother of Commander Nelson; Teodulo Capugon, *alias* Verner; and Angel Gonzales *alias* Rivera.

Gen. Cabal told the President that a commando unit under the command of Lt. Navarrete of Recon Company of the 22nd BCT, had made a commando raid in barrio Sakdalan, San Miguel, Bulacan, at 10 a.m., the previous day.

During the encounter, Cabal said, Nelson, the most notorious Huk Leader in Bulacan and commanding officer of the special area in Bulacan and the Candaba swamps, was killed. Nelson was the successor of Commander Victoria, who had been recently captured, and was the husband of Luningning. Huk Commander Timoteo Musni, *alias* Dasig, who was next in command, was wounded and was brought to the station hospital.

President Magsaysay congratulated Lt. Navarrete, reserve officer, for his courage and achievement. Upon the recommendation of Gen. Cabal, Navarrete was given on-the-spot integration into the regular army as first lieutenant. The President also ordered the promotion to the next higher rank of three enlisted men who had been with Lt. Navarrete during the encounter.

The Chief Executive told Gen. Cabal and his staff officers to release immediately monetary rewards to civilians who pointed to the whereabouts of Huks leading to their capture.

The President interviewed the captured Huks for a few minutes after which he congratulated again Gen. Cabal and the officers and men of the 1st MA. He returned to Malacañang about noon and ate his luncheon with his family.

In the afternoon, after working on state papers, the President left Malacañang again.

September 13.—LEAVING Malacañang at 8: 45 o'clock in the morning, the President motored to Fort McKinley to pin the *Golden Heart* presidential medal on Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo, the first to receive such an award. The award was given to Ambassador Romulo amidst impressive military ceremonies for his outstanding and meritorious services rendered to the country as the President's special envoy to the United States.

According to the citation, Gen. Romulo's work in the United States led to the extension of the time limits of the Rogers Act and the War Prisoners Act for the Filipino veterans, the 18 months extension of the Philippine Trade Act, and the implementation of the Mutual Defense Treaty.

After the medal had been pinned on him, Gen. Romulo thanked the President for the "undeserved honor which I accept in a spirit of humility." In a brief speech he delivered after being introduced by Brig. Gen. Alfonso Arellano, Ambassador Romulo said that he could not have accomplished all the work credited to him without President Magsaysay, whom "the Americans hold in the highest esteem and regard."

The President was given a 21-gun salute upon his arrival at Fort McKinley at 9 a.m. After saluting the colors, he proceeded to the grandstand where top government officials and diplomatic officials had already gathered.

The Chief Executive returned to Malacañang about 10:15 a.m. and went directly to his office at the Executive Office Building, where he received a few callers.

Rep. Jorge A. Abad of Batanes called to request aid for his island province which had been severely hit by the destructive typhoon *Ida*, which swept Northern Luzon last month. Abad informed the President that about 90 per cent of the crops and work animals had been destroyed and the people faced starvation.

The President instructed Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro to find out a way of releasing some funds for the stricken province. He said that the fund could be utilized to put up some public works projects in the locality and provide the inhabitants with employment with which to tide them over for the next few months while they rehabilitate their farms.

A delegation of professors from the Philippine College of Commerce headed by Luis F. Reyes, college president, invited the President to the first graduation exercises of the newly-formed adult class in Retail Merchandizing. The President, however, expressed his preference to meet the graduates in Malacañang after the graduation exercises.

The Chief Executive received callers until 12 noon. Morning callers included Senators Claro M. Recto, Macario Peralta, Jr., and Ruperta Kangleon; Rep. Manuel Enverga of Quezon; Gov. Bado Dangwa of Mt. Province; and suspended Gov. Serapio Datoc of Zamboanga del Sur.

About noon, the President issued Proclamation No. 64, declaring the period from September 15, 1954, to September 15, 1955, as the Literacy Year and creating a committee to take charge of the national campaign for literacy. The committee is composed of all the heads of the executive departments of the Government as technical consultants, and Chancellor Segundo Infantado, Dean Conrado Benitez, the chief of the adult education division of the Bureau of Public Schools, Dean Isidoro Panlasigui, Mrs. Flora E. Diaz-Catapusan, and Mrs. Geronima T. Pecson as co-chairmen.

All representatives of various institutions and organizations and others interested in lifting the literacy standards of the Filipino masses whose sig natures appear on the memorandum of the national literacy campaign delegation are considered members of the committee. As of this date, there are 80 persons, mostly school presidents, who have signed for membership.

In the afternoon, the President received representatives and observers to the regional conference of the World Health Organization, which is currently holding its session in Manila from September 10 to 16. The delegation was headed by Dr. Francis S. Maclean, director of the division of public hygiene of the Department of Health of New Zealand,

who was newly elected chairman of the conference. The delegates were accompanied by Health Secretary Paulino Garcia, Undersecretary Rafael S. Tumbokon, and Rep. Pedro G. Trono of Iloilo.

The President thanked the delegates for their work in seeking ways and means to help improve health conditions in this part of the world, especially in the Philippines. He said that he wanted very much to be able to give them a send-off party before they leave for their respective countries after the adjournment of their conference.

Responding, Dr. Maclean thanked the President for his generous remarks and for the hospitality that the delegates were receiving during their stay in Manila. He particularly praised President Magsaysay and the Administration for the enactment of health laws to improve the health of the people and for the rural health program of the Administration.

The delegates arrived at Malacañang about 4 p.m. and formed a semi circle around the table at the reception hall. The President went around the group and greeted each delegate.

From the reception hall, the President went down to the social hall, where he received some 12 Ilongots who were accompanied by Brig. Gen. Manuel Cabal, 1st MA commanding general.

Their spokesman, Ismael P. Linsangan, who is a teacher in the Ilongot school in barrio Abaca, Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija, informed the President that this Ilongot group had killed nine Huks in their barrio sometime ago. He brought a petition of the Ilongots requesting the conversion of their barrio school into a farm school in order to prepare the Ilongots for more useful and fruitful living. They also requested the restoration of the full teaching force in their school which had been reduced from nine to two.

The President wrote a personal note to the division superintendent of schools of Nueva Ecija, ordering that five more teachers be assigned to the barrio school. He told the Ilongots to continue cooperating in the anti-Huk drive and everything they needed would be given to them.

In the evening, the President directed Lieut. General Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff, to expedite the investigation of the alleged smuggling into the country of goods from Japan through the use of naval vessels.

The President last Saturday had already ordered a thorough investigation and directed that the probers dig into the core of the case. He said that he did not care who got hurt as a result of the investigation and that whoever would be found guilty would be prosecuted in accordance with the law.

Following the receipt of the President's directive, Gen. Vargas ordered the immediate recall of Navy Commander Santiago Nuval, chief of the Philippine procurement mission in Tokyo, to render an official report on the Japan end of the smuggling case. Nuval's position gives him final authority on Armed Forces' purchases in Japan.

Gen. Vargas also ordered Col. Diosdado Rodriguez, AFP inspector general, to proceed to Tokyo as soon as possible and conduct an on-the-spot investigation of the circumstances leading to the shipment of the goods aboard the *RPS Misamis Oriental*.

September 14.—At A BREAKFAST conference with the President this morning, Rep. Joaquin Roces of Manila, chairman of the CAFA, reported that there was no Cabinet member involved in the influx of Indonesians to Mindanao, as had been reported in some newspapers. He said the story did not originate from his committee's report.

Roces had just returned from the South. He said there were about 6,000 Indonesians now in Mindanao who came from Maruray and Las Palmas islands, which are 20 times closer to the Philippines than to Indonesia.

The President directed Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug to order the AFP chief of staff, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, to increase Army and Naval surveillance in the Mindanao waters and to institute more preventive measures. The

Chief Executive also directed Commodore Jose M. Francisco to provide the CAFA chief with one Navy patrol boat for going to the southern waters. Rep. Roces and his committee will go back to the South for about a week to look further into the influx of Indonesians.

Others in the breakfast conference with the President were Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro and Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo, who paid a courtesy call.

After the breakfast, the President proceeded to his executive office, where he received callers, first of whom were Rep. Justino Nuyda of Albay and Legaspi Councilors Angeles A. Baranda and Manuel Onandiya.

At the request of Rep. Nuyda and the Legaspi councilors, the President released P15, 000 from his contingent fund for the improvement and drainage construction of the Legaspi public market. The Albay officials also reported on the progress of their rural improvement program.

Another early caller was Sen. Manuel Briones, who urged that the U.P. library building on Padre Faura be given to the National Library and part of the archives and not to any other government entity or office. The Senator said that the National Library should be housed in a better building than the former Congress building on Lepanto, where the Library is now accommodated.

Malacañang this day denied that relatives of two Cabinet members were involved in the NARIC-FIMCO rice deal, as alleged in a morning newspaper. A Malacañang spokesman said there was no truth to the story. He explained that President Magsaysay had received an anonymous letter saying that relatives of two Cabinet members were FIMCO stockholders. The President, according to the spokesman, checked the veracity of the letter and even directed the NARIC investigating committee to look into the ease and found out that there was no truth to what the letter said.

The spokesman further said that the President acted swiftly upon receipt of the letter in order to get at the truth. It was definitely found out that there were no relatives of any Cabinet member involved in the NARIC-FIMCO rice deal, the spokesman said.

The President today issued Proclamation No. 66, declaring a special public holiday in Zamboanga del Sur. The date will mark the second anniversary of that province's organization.

The President said that he proclaimed the holiday to afford the people of Zamboanga del Sur an opportunity to hold appropriate ceremonies and realize their plan of holding an industrial-agricultural fair.

Upon the recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole, the Chief Executive today also granted a conditional pardon to Zosimo Crisostomo, alias Imo, and an absolute pardon to Conrado V. Garcia.

President Magsaysay followed another heavy schedule of conferences and callers this day.

A delegation from Rizal, headed by Gov. Wenceslao Pascual, called to present cash contributions from officials and employees of the Metropolitan Water District and from several towns in his province, including San Juan, Las Piñas, and Makati. The contributions totalling P1, 330 are for the Liberty Wells fund, collected on the occasion of the President's birthday. Gov. Pascual is chairman of the MWD board of directors.

The President received callers until 12 noon. His visitors consisted mostly of congressmen and governors who brought along delegations composed of mayors and other municipal officials from their respective provinces. The local officials invariably requested financial aid for the construction of roads, school buildings, puericulture centers, and artesian wells for their localities. Most of the governors, however, asked for the release of frozen pre-war deposits of their provinces in the PNB to finance some of their pressing projects.

Among the delegations who called, were those headed by Rep. Leonardo Perez and Gov. Jose Madarang of Nueva Vizcaya, Rep. Erasmo R. Cruz of Bulacan, Rep. Samuel Reyes of Isabela, and Rep. Wenceslao Lagumbay of Laguna.

Other callers included Senators Edmundo B. Cea and Tomas Cabili and Reps. Arturo M. Tolentino of Manila, Mateo Pecson of Masbate, Roseller T. Lim of Zamboanga del Sur, and Agustin M. Gatuslao of Negros Occidental.

A group of officers from the Pasig (Rizal) Lions Club headed by its president, Protacio C. Licsi, offered the services of their organization in connection with the Government's civil defense plans. The group also took up with the President the improvement of roads and the construction of wells in certain Pasig barrios.

Representatives of some civic organizations in Baler, Quezon, headed by Mayor David Valenzuela, submitted a request for the expansion of their Quezon Park, established a few years ago in honor of the late President Quezon.

The President had luncheon with executives of CALTEX (Philippines). The executives were Robert J. Monical, vice-president and managing director; Julius O. Fifer, vice-president and director of operations; Frank W. Zingare, finance and accounting manager; Jack C. Drager, manager of operations; Leigh D. Josephson, refinery manager; Roberto LaBionde, press relations representative; and Jose P. Roxas, sales, promotion, advertising, and publications manager.

The President in the afternoon conferred with Minister Felino Neri regarding latest developments in the stalemated Philippine-Japanese reparations talks and immediately afterwards set a meeting of the Council of Leaders for Friday morning, September 17, to take up the matter.

The President scheduled a meeting of the Council for Friday to take up the question of the possible resumption of the reparations talks between the two countries. He instructed Neri to be present at the breakfast conference.

In their brief conference, the President was informed by Neri, chairman of the new Philippine panel on the reparations question, that he (Neri) had completed reading the report of the Hernandez mission and had found it to be a "very competent and concise study." Neri said the panel would be guided in large measure by the report.

The Hernandez report was the result of a survey of Japan's economy undertaken by a special presidential committee appointed by President Magsaysay and headed by Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez. The survey was undertaken in connection with the reparations question. For obvious reasons, the findings of the mission have been kept secret.

Earlier, President Magsaysay conferred with defense officials on the PX goods smuggling case and reiterated his instructions for a thorough investigation of the matter. The President met with Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, and Brig. Gen. Eulogio Balao. At the conference, the President again emphatically asserted that "in this administration, nobody will be allowed to get away with dishonesty."

President Magsaysay in the afternoon completed the reorganization of the NARIC by naming Col. Jacinto Gavino, currently assigned with the PATC at Fort McKinley, as the fifth member of the NARIC board of directors. He turned down the resignation offer of Conrado Estrella, an incumbent board member.

Earlier, the President had appointed ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo and Maximo Calalang to the board. As now constituted, the board is composed of General Manager Juan O. Chioco, who is concurrently board chairman, Estrella, Col. Mondonedo, Calalang, and Col. Gavino.

The President had accepted the resignation of Board Members Felix de la Costa and Sergio Ortiz Luis. On the other hand, he had turned down the resignation offer of Chioco. Contrary to some reports, Press Secretary J. V. Cruz said, the President was retaining Chioco both as NARIC general manager and board chairman.

Cruz said Gavino was named to the board in view of the fact that the Armed Forces were expected to continue contributing their facilities and manpower to the general effort to distribute rice at the lowest cost. It will be recalled that trucks and other facilities of the Armed Forces were utilized by the NARIC in the recent distribution of rice at P.60 a ganta. The Armed Forces are expected to continue cooperating in the rice program, Cruz said.

President Magsaysay at present has no plans of leaving for the United States, Press Secretary J. V. Cruz said in the afternoon in commenting on newspaper reports that the Chief Executive was preparing to go to the United States in November. "The President isn't thinking of leaving the country," Cruz said. "He has pressing home-work to do."

The Malacañang spokesman described as "absolutely groundless" the report that the President was going to the United States for a medical checkup. "The President is in very good health," Cruz said, "and does not require other than the normal care from his physicians."

Regarding the alleged statement made by an unidentified Liberal representative to the effect that the Chief Executive's alleged trip had some connection with the Laurel mission now in Washington, Cruz called this report "a transparent piece of cheap gossip and intrigue which does not deserve any reply."

The Press Secretary said that if President Magsaysay ever decides to leave the country for any place abroad, it will only be because the nation's highest interest will have permitted and demanded his departure.

Late in the afternoon, the President left the Palace. He returned early in the evening.

September 15.— AFTER EATING his breakfast, the President started receiving callers at his office at the Executive Office Building, the first of whom was Rep. Francisco Ortega of La Union.

Dr. Jesse H. Baird, head of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, who has been giving lectures here for three months now, paid a courtesy call on the President. He was accompanied by Eugene A Hessel. Dr. Baird is leaving on Friday for the United States.

Another caller of the President was Mrs. Juan de G. Rodriguez wife of the Pangasinan governor. She was accompanied by NARIC Board Member Conrado Estrella.

The President, after receiving callers, proceeded to the Cabinet meeting which started at 9:30 a.m.

With President Magsaysay presiding, the Cabinet at its regular meeting this day decided to bring up before the current United Nations conference on stateless persons the problems confronting the Philippine Government, incident to the illegal entry into the country of thousands of Chinese and Indonesians. The Cabinet also:

1. Reiterated the policy of permitting the U. S. Armed Forces to lease additional lands for expansion of their military installations in the country but without giving them title to any such lands;
2. Approved a new extension of the Philippines-Japan barter trade agreement; and,
3. Approved plans drawn up by the Department of Public Works and Communications for the improvement of the Cebu City water system.

The Cabinet was requested by Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently secretary of foreign affairs, to formulate instructions for Ambassador Felixberto Serrano, permanent Philippine delegate to the United Nations, for the conference on stateless persons now meeting at U. N. headquarters in New York.

The President told Garcia he was glad the latter had brought up this matter because he (the President) had planned to take advantage of this conference to lay the country's problems relative to illegal entrants before the U. N. The President said he was anxious that the Philippines obtain an agreement from foreign countries to accept back their

nationals who had entered the Philippines illegally. On the recommendation of the Cabinet, the President directed Garcia to send the proper instructions to Serrano to place before the U. N. conference the problem of 3,000 Chinese illegal entrants and an estimated 7,000 Indonesians who had come into the country through the South.

The Cabinet also reaffirmed the policy laid down by the Council of Leaders to extend every assistance to the U. S. Armed Forces in the expansion of their bases and installations in the country, short of permitting them to acquire title to the lands on which they are located. The Cabinet said the U. S. Government may be permitted to lease such lands for a period of 99 years, renewable another 99 years, but will not be granted title thereto.

Occasion for the reiteration of this policy was a report made by the Department of Foreign Affairs on the progress of negotiations being undertaken by the Philippine Government to acquire some lands in Bataan and Zambales to be leased to U. S. Armed Forces installations. The President instructed Vice-President Garcia to exhaust all means of acquiring these lands through agreement with the owners before exploring the alternative of expropriation.

The Cabinet approved another extension of the Philippines-Japan barter trade agreement, due to expire September 17, up to January 31, 1955. This marks the tenth time the agreement is extended since it came into effect four years ago. At the same time, President Magsaysay instructed the foreign office to undertake during the period of the latest extension a study of possible changes in the agreement with the end in view of extending greater protection to Philippine commodities which have suffered from competition with Japanese goods. The President directed this study after Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma had informed the Cabinet that some local manufacturers, among them toy makers, had complained to him about competition from Japanese goods. The President directed that Ledesma's department be consulted in this study.

Finally, the Cabinet approved plans drawn up by Secretary of Public Works and Communications Vicente Orosa, to improve the deficient water supply system in Cebu City. Under these plans, a booster pumping station will be installed midway between Cebu City and the Hagubiao Spring which will result in normal supply of 4,320,000 gallons a day from the Hagubiao Spring, and five artesian wells will be drilled in the City's San Nicolas district to pump water directly to the distribution system, adding 720,000 gallons daily to the supply. These remedial measures, intended to relieve the chronic water shortage in Cebu City, will cost an estimated total of P220, 000.

President Magsaysay took steps to bring government rice at P.60 a ganta to the masses of the people all over the country when he decided to utilize the services of municipal treasurers to handle the distribution of the staple commodity in their respective localities.

The President hit upon this scheme of widespread distribution in the course of his conference with NARIC officials in the morning just before the Cabinet meeting. According to the plan, the cereal would be shipped to provincial treasurers who would in turn allocate the shipment among the municipalities within their jurisdiction. The rice shipments to the provinces would be guaranteed by the PNB, which still holds frozen pre-war deposits of provincial governments amounting to millions of pesos.

During the conference, former Gov. Juan O. Chioco, NARIC general manager, reported to the President that the letter of credit for the importation of 50,000 tons of rice from Pakistan had already been arranged with the PNB and that the first shipment of 20,000 tons was expected to arrive here before the end of this month. The remaining 30,000 tons will be in Manila by October 10, Chioco reported.

The President instructed the NARIC general manager to regulate the disposal of the current rice stocks to make them last until the first shipment from Pakistan has arrived in Manila. He expressed his desire to keep up a continuous supply of the cereal to be made available to the general public at a very low price.

Present at the conference were Chioco, Board Member Conrado Estrella, and ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo, newly appointed board member. Also present were Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, PNB President Arsenio Jison, Economic Coordination Administrator Alfredo Montelibano, PRISCO General Manager Ismael Mathay, and Venancio Trinidad, member of the rice-purchasing committee.

Earlier in the morning, the President formalized the creation of his rice-purchasing committee and directed it to determine reasonable prices at which rice could be procured, taking into consideration the cost of production incurred by the farmers as well as the buying capacity which the government could afford under the circumstances.

The President told the committee to purchase the palay from small farmers and tenants at floor prices out of the proposed loan to be extended by the PNB to the NARIC. The NARIC, the President continued, in utilizing this loan, should have in view the insurance of “an adequate supply of rice to our population.”

President Magsaysay had announced the creation of the rice-purchasing committee last September 10 but withheld its formalization until today. Administrative Order No. 59, which formalizes the creation of the committee, is titled “Creating a committee to plan, coordinate, and supervise the buying of palay by the government from small farmers and tenants during the 1954-1955 rice harvest.”

The Committee is composed of Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta, chairman, and NARIC General Manager Juan O. Chioco, ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo, PRISCO General Manager Ismael Mathay, Public Schools Director Venancio Trinidad, and PC Chief Florencio Selga, members.

The committee was given the “go ahead” signal to devise ways and means of effecting an efficient handling of the purchase of palay from local producers, especially from small rice farmers and tenants. They were also told to look into such aspects of the rice problem as warehousing, transportation, and widespread dissemination of information of this government activity to reach the farmers in the remotest barrios.

The NARIC, the ACCFA, and the PRISCO were also instructed to render any assistance as the committee may need in the performance of its functions.

In the afternoon, the President worked on pending papers.

September 16.—PRESIDENT MAGSAYSAY received United States Rep. James B. Utt of the U.S. House ways and means committee and Edward Terrar, staff assistant of the same committee. The visitors were accompanied by Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance. The Chief Executive and Rep. Utt discussed the possibilities of the success of the Bell Trade revision mission headed by Sen. Jose P. Laurel now in the United States.

Rep. Utt said he was here to study economic conditions in connection with the Bell Trade revision. The President presented him with a cane.

The President started receiving callers at 9 a.m. He received from Economic Coordination Administrator Alfredo Montelibano the latest developments on the importation of rice for local consumption. Another caller was Archbishop Julio Rosales of Cebu, who paid a courtesy call.

The national literacy committee, headed by Dean Conrado Benitez, also called to give the President a fill-in of their program for combating Communism in the field of propaganda. Saying that the people in the barrios would be less susceptible to Communism if they knew how to read and write, the members of the committee told the President that their program included a wide circulation of anti-Communist reading materials. The committee, according to the members, would also embark on a mission to decrease the percentage of illiteracy in the country.

Co-chairmen of the national literacy committee who visited the President were Dean Benitez, Isidro Panlasigue, Segundo Infantado, Miguel Gaffud, and Mrs. Flora Diaz-Catapusan.

The President told the members of the committee to submit their plans and budget in writing so that they could start their work at the earliest possible time.

Another morning caller was Rep. Augusto Francisco of Manila, who is leaving for Washington D.C. to attend the International Monetary Fund conference as member of the Philippine delegation with Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno.

Other early callers of the President were Diosdado Yap, editor of the *Bataan* magazine in the United States; Marcelino Bautista; and Alberto Carpenter, an American old-timer living in Naga, who proposed to the President the buying of better machines for drilling artesian wells. The 82-year old American old-timer said that he could make the machine in his shop. The President told him that he would like to see and try out the machine.

Meanwhile, Malacañang received a telegram from the principal and head teachers of Cagayancillo, Palawan, expressing gratitude for medicine sent by Malacañang for a boy suffering from tetanus. Unfortunately, the boy had died before the medicine arrived.

The grandmother of the boy, Hipolita Cayaon, was very grateful to President Magsaysay, who sent the medicine and to the PCAC. The telegram also said that the sending of the medicine greatly strengthened the faith of the people of Cagayancillo in the Government. The telegram added that Mayor P. Bundac delivered a speech at the plaza praising the Government for the immediate action and its concern for poor isolated people.

Toward noon time, the President received more callers at his executive office. He created a committee to assist the Department of National Defense in the selection of 15 government pensionados to the United States under the FOA-PHILCUSA program. These 15 pensionados will constitute the key personnel of the Philippine Veterans Memorial Hospital scheduled to start operation in October next year.

The committee is composed of Health Secretary Paulino Garcia, chairman; Gen. Basilio Valdez, vice-chairman; and the deans of various medical colleges and the president of the Philippine Medical Association, members.

The President created the committee in the course of a conference with top defense officials who made another call at Malacañang this noon to consult him on "Army matters". The officials were Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug, Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, and Brig. Gen. Eulogio Balao, vice-chief of staff. Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff, was not at the conference, as he had left for Sulu in the morning.

Members of the board of directors of the Philippine Coconut Administration (PHILCOA) paid a "thank you" call on the President following their appointment some two weeks ago. During their call, the doctors reported on some of their accomplishments since their assumption of office, such as the stabilization of the price of copra and the improvement of tenant-landlord relations in the coconut industry.

The PHILCOA board is composed of Benjamin Salvosa, chairman, Leon Guinto, Santiago Gancayco, and Eduardo Reyes, members.

A delegation from Cavite requested P200.000 for the construction of an irrigation system to service an area of 1,000 hectares in the towns of Gen. Trias, Maragondon, and Ternate. The delegation was headed jointly by Mayors Angel M. Genuino of Gen. Trias and Atanacio Castronuevo of Maragondon.

Another delegation from the Federation of Professional and Business Women's Clubs headed by Mrs. Florinda I. Barcenas urged the creation of a commission to look after the welfare of women and children. A third delegation from the Filipino Baker's Association led by Jose Sagay, association manager, sought the inclusion of flour among the imported goods exempted from the 17 per cent exchange tax.

Mrs. Espiridiona Distrito, the only living sister of Andres Bonifacio, sought government assistance in connection with her claim for a pension. Now 80 years of age, Mrs. Distrito said that she had been working for her pension for more 20 years and had sought the assistance of all presidents, since the time of the late President Quezon, but with no success.

Among the last callers was Col. Salvador Villa, general manager of the Manila Railroad Company, who consulted the President on matters concerning the Philippine Railway in Panay, which had been placed under the operation and management of the MRR.

The President in the evening swore into office Manuel Nieto as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Philippine Government to Argentina and Mexico. Held at the Malacañang reception hall, the ceremony was attended by top members of the diplomatic corps headed by Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia, Argentinian Minister Jose Manuel Moneta, and Mexican Charge d'Affaires Carlos Gutierrez Macias.

After the ceremony, the President honored Minister Nieto with cocktails at the ceremonial hall.

September 17.—THE PRESIDENT this day directed Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason to order the provincial fiscal of Batangas to facilitate the investigation of the killing of Ladislao Dinglasan, assistant chief of police of Batangas, Batangas. The President's directive was prompted by the appeal of the wife of the deceased who saw the President with her six children. According to Mrs. Dinglasan, the investigation of the shooting of her husband seemed to have bogged down.

Ladislao Dinglasan had been killed inside a restaurant last August 28 and six persons were suspected for the crime. Two of the suspected killers are now out on bail.

The President gave the weeping widow and her children some money and promised them that the guilty parties in the killing would be punished in accordance with law.

The President started receiving callers at 8: 30 a.m. Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa accompanied Mayor Conraclo Pascual and Vice-Mayor Felix Tayag of San Miguel, Bulacan, who requested the release of P30,000 for the construction and repair of the San Juan-Biak-na-Bato road in Bulacan. The President told Orosa to grant the request.

Another P15, 000 was also ordered released by the President for the construction of four artesian wells in Gasan, Marinduque, after talking to Rep Panfilo Manguera and Vice-Mayor Antonio Zoleta of Gasan, Marinduque.

The President, likewise, directed Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta to determine whether the land where some 3,000 Igorot coffee planters are squatting in Mt. Province is government property or not.

The President said that if the land was government property, the Igorot coffee planters could apply for homestead. The plight of the Igorots was brought to Malacañang by Mr. and Mrs. A. Van Zyverden. Zyverden said that if the Igorot coffee planters could be given the land, he would provide them with coffee seedlings.

The Chief Executive this morning received a total of P3,000 for the Liberty Wells fund. The Rizal Public School Teachers Association donated P2,000 and the Bataan Teachers Association gave P1,000.

The donation of the Rizal teachers was handed to the President by Teodoro Santos, president of the association, and the contribution of the Bataan teachers was presented by Bataan Schools Superintendent Victor de Leon.

Thanking the teachers for their commendable act, the President said that he was very grateful for their help in bringing clean water to the people in the barrios.

In the course of his conversation with the Bataan teachers, the President was informed that there was no doctor nor a mid-wife in Morong, Bataan. The Chief Executive promptly called Bureau of Hospitals Director Tranquilino Elicano and told him to look into the case.

Among the morning callers were a group of Laguna teachers who invited the President to attend a seminar to be participated in by 18 Tagalog and Bicol provinces from October 4 to 9; Sen. Tomas Cabili with a delegation from Lanao; PNB President Arsenio Jison and PNB Board Chairman Jose Paez; Reps. Emilio Cortez of Pampanga, Gregorio Tan of Samar, Lamberto Macias of Negros Oriental, Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo, Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz; and Mrs. Raymund Clapper, George Taylor of the CARE, and former Rep. Pascual Beltran.

The President retired to his room before noon because he was not feeling well.

In the afternoon, the President directed that all teachers in schools and universities instill daily in their students a clear understanding of, and an undying loyalty to, the constitution and to the principles and practices of Democracy. It is expected, he said, that teachers would continue to carry out the official policy of the Administration as being opposed to Communism and that they would respect the convictions of the parents of the school children.

These statements were contained in the President's message read by Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro in the afternoon at the Malacañang Social Hall before school officials and teachers coming from all parts of the Philippines attending the UNESCO seminar in Manila from September 6 to 18. The theme of the seminar is "The Role of Social Studies in Education for Living in a World Community."

Secretary Castro explained that owing to indisposition, the President had been advised by his physician to leave Malacañang for some rest but that he had taken along with him state papers. The President, Castro said, had delegated him to speak on the Chief Executive's behalf and to read his message.

Dr. Mariano V. de los Santos, director of the seminar, presented a resolution passed by the seminarists for transmission to the President, expressing their appreciation for the President's program of rural improvement and social amelioration and for inspiring them in their work as teachers. The resolution said in part that the officials and delegates to the seminar "express unqualified and vigorous support for the barrio improvement program of President Magsaysay, and assure him that (they) will lend a hand in helping make the program yield the most in the well-being and happiness of the Filipino people."

Expressing further the President's concept of social justice, Secretary Castro told the teachers that the President believes that more social justice and more law should be given to the underprivileged to make up for what they lack in life. He stressed that according to the President, the government should start from the bottom and not from the upper crust of society.

Secretary Castro reminded the teachers that it was their duty to take a direct hand in promoting social justice and in the rural amelioration program of the President. He thanked them on behalf of the President for their resolution expressing support to the President's program of action.

The delegates were accompanied to Malacañang by Dr. Mariano V. de los Santos, director of the seminar; Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr.; Public Schools Director Venancio Trinidad; City Schools Superintendent Antonio Maceda; Dr. Pedro Orata; and Gerardo Flores, secretary of the seminar.

President Magsaysay created this day the Philippine Information Agency and directed it to disseminate throughout the world accurate information concerning the political, economic, social, and cultural conditions and activities of the Philippines. The agency was placed under the Office of the President.

According to Administrative Order No. 60 issued this day by the President, the agency would be administered by a director and supervised by an advisory board composed of Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro, as chairman, and Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, Foreign Affairs Under secretary Raul S. Manglapus, Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, Col. Nicanor Jimenez, and Foreign Affairs Officer Narciso Reyes, as members. Reyes was designated executive secretary of the board and director of the agency.

The creation of a central administrative office of the Philippine Information Agency here as well as of regional offices abroad was also ordered by the President to facilitate the implementation of the program of international publicity and public relations which he had outlined.

According to the President's plan, the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C., will serve as regional office of the information agency in North and South America. The Philippine Embassy in London, on the other hand, was designated the agency's regional office for Europe and Africa.

For the time being, the central administrative office, which would be located in Manila, will perform the functions of regional office for Asia, the Southwest Pacific and the Middle East. For the immediate performance of the functions of the information agency in the Americas, the Chief Executive is soon expected to designate an officer in the Office of the President to take charge of the regional office in Washington, D.C.

In carrying out the above functions, the President made available to the agency such channels of distribution as Philippine embassies, consulates, trade and business organizations like the Philippine Association, chambers of commerce with connections abroad, and other similar entities, such as news papers, TV and radio stations overseas, and tourist centers.

The President specifically instructed the regional offices to plan an information campaign in their respective areas, to supervise production of materials prepared by the main Office of the agency and to arrange for the translation of materials when necessary for Asian, European, and South American countries.

The agency was empowered by the Chief Executive to call upon any department, bureau, office, agency, or instrumentality of the government, including the corporations owned and controlled by it, for any assistance it may need in carrying out its function.

Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro in the evening received on behalf of the President representatives and observers to the regional conference of the World Health Organization held in Manila and which closed on September 16.

In a prepared message to the WHO delegates, which was read by Secretary Castro, the President emphasized the health promotion work in the rural areas which the Government is undertaking. The President said the Government is doing everything possible to control such important diseases as tuberculosis, yaws, snail fever, malaria, and other parasitic diseases.

He said: "I think, for instance, that the work which my government has started by sending rural health units to as many parts of the country as possible and the work that we are carrying out in providing potable water to the people of the barrios, may well be one of the outstanding achievements of my administration and of lasting value to the Philippines."

In his message, the President expressed gratitude to the WHO, the UN Children's Emergency Fund, the UN technical assistance, and the Foreign Operations Administration, which are playing an important role in "helping my government in this herculean task." He was also thankful for the long range work being done here in training Filipino technicians in the various fields of health.

The delegates were headed by Dr. H. S. Gear, representing the WHO director general; Dr. I. C. Fang, regional director; and Col. Harry A. Brenn of FOA. They were accompanied to Malacañang by Health Secretary Paulino Garcia.

The Chief Executive paid tribute to the work of Health Secretary Garcia in helping solve the health problems of the country.

September 18.—OWING to the heavy strain during the week, attending to a continuous stream of callers and working on important state matters, the President was advised by his physician to forget for a while the worries of state and enjoy a much needed healthful recreation in order to keep himself in trim for the grind of the coming week.

Accompanied by his aide, Capt. Jose Estrella, the President motored to Fort McKinley about 10 a.m. this morning. Donning his outfit for horseback riding minus the boots, the President enjoyed riding on horseback for about two hours on the well kept grounds of the Army installation.

At first he rode on a white stallion and later used another one with a dark and brown color. The President's riding companions were Col. Jacobo Zobel, head of the cavalry outfit, and Capt. Estrella.

After resting briefly, the President motored to Nichols airbase, where he took off aboard the plane *Pagasa* for San Marcelino, Zambales. He arrived at Castillejos about 1:15 and ate lunch at his brother Jose's house.

The President, accompanied by Mayor Sixto Cacho and Capt. Estrella went to a place named Bagang near the river in Castillejos to hunt. He had with him a 20-gauge Browning shotgun. He bagged a dozen snipes and mountain pigeons.

After about two hours of hunting, the President took off for Manila about 5 p.m. and proceeded direct to Malacañang.

The President was back at the Palace at 7 p.m. He retired to bed early.

September 19.—THE PRESIDENT took time out to attend a picnic this day at Sexmoan, Pampanga. The party was given jointly by the officers of the 1st MA and the Pampanga provincial officials in honor of the Chief Executive.

Accompanied by his wife, his daughter Teresita, and Capt. Jose Estrella, the President left Malacañang at 10:30 a.m. He first dropped in at Camp Olivas, San Fernando, where he was joined by top brass of the Armed Forces, including Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Brig. Gen. Eulogio Balao, Commodore Jose M. Francisco (Navy), and Brig. Gen. Pelagio A. Cruz (Air Force).

The President conferred briefly with the AFP officers before boarding a speedboat which took him to the picnic ground by the Sexmoan River.

At 2 p.m., the President left Sexmoan for Manila, arriving at the Palace about 4 p.m. About 6 p.m., he left Malacañang again and returned an hour later.

Education Secretary and Mrs. Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., were among those who called on the Chief Executive in the evening.

September 20.—PRESIDENT MAGSAYSAY presided over a one-hour breakfast conference with the Council of Leaders this morning during which they discussed various aspects of the Philippine claim for reparations with Japan. At the conference, members of the Council had a free exchange of views and asked that they be given more time to study the matter and to consult with their respective parties. They agreed to meet again sometime this week for further discussions.

Present at the conference were Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr.; Senate President Protempore Manuel C. Briones; Speaker Protempore Daniel Z. Romualdez; House Majority Floor Leader Arturo M. Tolentino; Senators Claro M. Recto, Emmanuel Pelaez, Macario Peralta, Jr., and Tomas Cabili; and Reps. Cornelio Villareal of Capiz and Serafin Salvador of Rizal. Also present at the conference which lasted from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. were Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently secretary of foreign affairs, and Minister Feline-Neri.

Following the conference, the President repaired to his private study, where he worked on pending state papers. He was assisted by Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro. He began receiving scheduled callers at his executive office about 9:30 a.m.

A delegation of tenants from Tondo called to request the inclusion of the Palomar and the Manotoc subdivisions in the implementation of Republic Act No. 1162, which authorizes government expropriation of big landed estates for distribution to *bona fide* tenants on easy installment plan. Accompanied by Councilor Marciano Santos, the delegation informed the President that hundreds of poor families who had built their homes on the Palomar and the Manotoc estates and who had been living there for many years would benefit from the proposed expropriation of the estates.

A joint delegation from the Rubber Manufacturers' Association and the Federation of Rubber Workers' Union sought the President's intervention to enable local manufacturers to purchase locally-produced raw materials at the same price as that given to foreign manufacturers. The delegation complained that raw rubber was being exported at a cost 15 per cent lower than that quoted to local manufacturers. Because of the high cost of raw materials, Philippine manufacturers have had to lay off employees and were being forced to operate only three days a week, the group alleged.

The President promised to do something about the matter to protect the local industries and for the sake of hundreds of employees who would be thrown out of work.

Accompanied by Speaker Protempore Daniel Z. Romualdez, the joint delegation was composed of Arturo Jacinto of the Jacinto Rubber Products, Carlos Geronimo of *El Porvenir*, Jose P. Marcelo of the Marcelo Rubber, Benjamin Roque of the United Rubber Workers' Union, Jacinto Purificacion of the Jacinto Rubber Employees Association, and Pio Geronimo of the Elpo Rubber Workers' Union.

Gov. Vicente Constantino of Quezon, who had been nominated to represent the league of provincial governors and city mayors in the Philippine panel for the Bell Trade Act revision, called to submit a resolution containing the League's recommendations on proposed amendment to the PI-US Trade Agreement.

Mrs. Sarah England, former principal of the Mapa High School in Manila, called to pay her respects following her recent arrival in the city on a few months visit here. Mrs. England, who had lived in the Philippines for 36 years before the war, said that President Magsaysay is very well known among the American people, who consider him the most colorful leader in the Far East.

Another delegation from Cagayan, headed by Rep. Felipe Garduque, asked for financial assistance for the repair of schools and establishment of some water and irrigation systems in the province.

Manila Vice-Mayor Bartolome Gatmaitan invited the President to a house-warming party at his residence in Tondo this coming Saturday. Gatmaitan was accompanied by Councilor Justo Ibay.

Other callers included Sen. Ruperto Kangleon, Rep. Pedro Lopez of Cebu, and Maj. Gen. Robert. M. Cannon, chief of JUSMAG.

Following a brief conversation with Rep. Jose Corpuz and Gov Leopoldo Diaz of Nueva Ecija, the President directed the Army and the NBI to determine whether a man killed by a temporary policeman in Talavera Nueva Ecija, in 1948, was a Huk or not.

The President issued the directive in view of a criminal charge filed against the temporary policeman involved in the killing. If the slain man was a Huk, the criminal charge would be inconsistent with the Administration's policy of rewarding citizens who kill or help in the capture of Huks.

Gov. Diaz said that if the slain man was a Huk and the charge against the temporary policeman would prosper, the case would serve as a precedent and the Administration's policy of rewarding Huk killers and informers would suffer.

After talking to the Nueva Ecija officials, the President received Gov. Alejo Santos of Bulacan, who headed a delegation from his province. The Governor and his delegation discussed with the President various local problems including bridge and road construction.

Other callers of the President included Sen. Tomas Cabili, Gov. Juan Carbonell of La Union, and suspended Gov. Serapio Datoc of Zamboanga del Sur.

In the afternoon, the President directed Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason and Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez to look immediately into charges that the NARIC board of directors had awarded a bid to import rice at a price much higher than that offered by another company. He directed his two department secretaries to see to it that the contract for the importation of rice was above board from all angles and that the consummation of the contract would prove favorable and advantageous to the government and to the people.

The President's directive was prompted by reports in the afternoon papers to the effect that Rep. Celestino C. Juan of Nueva Ecija had denounced Monday noon to the Senate blue ribbon committee the contract awarded by the NARIC board of directors to import rice. Juan charged that the Government stood to lose P680, 000 in the transaction representing the difference in the two bids. He said that the bid in question involved a contract to import 20,000 tons of rice from Burma. The winning bidder offered \$97 a ton while the rejected bidder had allegedly offered 180 a ton, or \$17 lower.

Meanwhile, Economic Coordination Administrator Alfredo Montelibano and NARIC Chairman and General Manager Juan O. Chioco, the two officials who had supervised the bidding for the importation of rice Monday afternoon, said that nobody had offered to the NARIC rice at \$80 a ton. They said that the price of \$80 a ton was hardly possible for the kind of rice imported. Montelibano added that what possibly could be purchased at \$80 a ton was the *binlid* kind of rice which was not the kind ordered by the NARIC.

The President did not receive any callers in the afternoon. He left the Palace and went on horseback riding along Dewey Boulevard.

The Department of Foreign Affairs announced this day that Gen. Carlos P. Romulo has been designated chairman of the Philippine delegation to the United Nations General Assembly this year. The appointment enables the Philippines to avail herself of the services of one who enjoys valuable contacts in the United Nations. It was explained that the appointment does not imply lack of confidence in our incumbent permanent delegate, whose outstanding qualities are known to all.

It is believed that to avail of Romulo's services he could not be designated as a simple member of our delegation, considering that he once served as president of the UN General Assembly.

The President directed Dr. Manuel G. Sumulong, director of the Bureau of Animal Industry, to import some 1,000 Sahiwal cows from India for distribution to 4-H clubs and to replenish the country's dwindling cattle stock. The President directed Financial Assistant Rodolfo P. Andal to release the amount of P500, 000 for the importation.

The President ordered that the public bidding be held before the purchase of these cows in order to be able to get the best prices. The President said it was necessary to import these cows because of the country's thinning cow stock which at present amounts only to some 700,000 heads.

The President inquired from Director Sumulong on the result of the food-and-mouth disease campaign conducted by his bureau. Sumulong said that the cattle infestation had already been controlled a long time ago.

September 21.—AFTER HIS BREAKFAST, the President received a few callers, including Col. Antonio Chanco, chief of the AFP corps of engineers. Col. Chanco was leaving for Palawan, where he was to set up some pre-fabricated schoolhouses. The President suspended his appointments with listed morning callers and motored to the Philippine Army Training Command in Fort Mckinley. He left Malacañang at 9:15 a.m.

At Fort Mckinley the President was joined by Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol and Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff. The President just wanted to check up on the progress of the re-training program of the Armed Forces aimed at training the soldiers in modern warfare.

The President stayed at the Fort for more than an hour. He watched the trainees at their drills. He talked to the men and inquired about their food and living conditions. Later, he visited the kitchen, where he was shown around by Maj. Gabriel Gonzales, instructor. The President also visited the mess hall, where he watched the KP's set long rows of tables with aluminum trays and mess kits. Approaching one of the tables, the President sampled the rice on a tray. He found that the soldiers were having chicken for lunch. He congratulated the mess officers, Capt. Martiniano Moran and Matias Maranon, for the excellent food being provided the trainees on a meal allowance of PI a day each person.

From Fort McKinley, the President motored to Camp Murphy, arriving there about 10:30 a.m. At the office of the chief of staff, he found officers of the *Legion de Veteranos de '96*, waiting to be sworn in by Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas. Among the legion officers was Gov. Dominador Chipeco of Laguna, elected honorary national supreme commander.

Gov. Chipeco officially reported to the President the death of Mayor Seginando Rizal of Calamba as a result of a motor accident at the national highway in Muntinlupa, Rizal, the night before. The President requested Chipeco to convey his condolence to the bereaved family and instructed the Laguna governor to extend all possible government assistance to the bereaved family.

From Gen. Vargas' office, the President visited the Public Information Office, particularly the psychological warfare section, where he was shown some charts and photographs being prepared in connection with the intensification of the psychological war against dissidents. The President returned to Malacañang about 12 noon.

In the afternoon, the President received the final report of the presidential fact-finding committee which had investigated the business transactions and activities of the Villanueva Steamship Company. The President handed over the Francisco report to Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, who was present when the committee submitted its findings for immediate action.

The committee, chaired by Commodore Jose M. Francisco, flag officer of the Philippine Navy, recommended the following:

(1) That Francisco T. Koh, Jose Uy Eng Kui, and Vicente Alunan be prosecuted for violation of section 16 of Republic Act No. 85:

(2) That Francisco T. Koh, Santos Llorca, Jose Uy Eng Kui, *alias* Jose Uy Villanueva, Dolores Siy Hai Pin, *alias* Siy Ay Chu, Cloy T. Koh, and Ramon Fabella, officers and majority stockholders of the Villanueva Steamship Company, Inc., be prosecuted for violation of Republic Act No. 134;

(3) That Francisco T. Koh and Jose Uy Eng Kui be prosecuted for falsification of public documents, article 171(4), in relation to article 172(1) of the Revised Penal Code;

(4) That Francisco T. Koh, Jose Uy Eng Kui, and Vicente Villanueva be prosecuted for violation of Republic Act No. 265 in connection with Circulars Nos. 20 and 31 of the Monetary Board: and

(5) That Rafael del Pan and Gabriel de la Torre be investigated by the Commissioner of Customs with the view to cancelling their “assigning authority” and further revision of the revised Merchant Marine Rules and Regulations.

The President received in the afternoon Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason and Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, who reported to him their findings on the charges filed by Rep. Celestino Juan of Nueva Ecija that the NARIC board of directors had awarded a bid to import rice at a price much higher than that offered by another company. Economic Coordinator Administrator Alfredo Montelibano, who was present during the inquiry made on the matter in the morning of the previous day, accompanied Tuason and Hernandez to Malacañang.

The President was informed that Rep. Juan’s charge that a bidder had allegedly offered \$80 a ton as against the winning bid of \$97 a ton of rice, was unfounded. They said that they had found in their investigation that no bidder had offered \$80 a ton.

September 22.—THE PRESIDENT in the morning held a long conference with Animal Industry Director Manuel Sumulong and Dr. Estefanio Fariñas, acting chief of the animal husbandry division of the Bureau, to discuss a new government project called “Operations Dispersal.” The project aims at starting small farmers in cattle breeding to augment their limited incomes as beef suppliers and providing them with a sufficient number of work animals for their farms.

The project would call for the expenditure of P500,000 with which to import cattle from India to bolster cattle breeding in the Philippines.

The plan calls for the loan of government breeding cattle to the farmers under an arrangement similar to the *kasama* system in which the farmers would be obliged to turn over to the government the first two offsprings, after which the cattle would belong permanently to the farmers.

Breeding would be supervised closely by technical men of the Bureau of Animal Industry who would indoctrinate the farmers to modern scientific methods. The loaned cattle would be paired with special bulls provided by the Bureau to insure the propagation of improved breed of animals.

The President this noon instructed Director Sumulong of Animal Industry to carry out the plan right away with whatever cattle were available in government stock farms. He ordered the director to start with nearby provinces to facilitate closer supervision by the Bureau’s technicians.

The President made available to the bureau director the sum of P500, 000 for the importation of breeding cattle from India and other neighboring countries. With the imported stocks and the offsprings of loaned, animals turned over to the government from time to time, the President hopes to widen the sphere of cattle breeding until all poor farmer throughout the country interested in the undertaking were provided with government cattle.

The President minimized the usefulness of pilot plants currently being maintained by the Bureau, such as the dairy stock farm in Alabang. He said these stock farms were of little value to farmers who could not copy them without necessary government assistance.

“We’ll get nowhere with these pilot plants when it comes to really helping our people,” the President told Sumulong. “Let’s discard this pilot plant mentality.”

During his conference with Dr. Sumulong at Malacañang this morning, the Chief Executive instructed the director to get the cooperation of local officials, such as the governor, the mayor, or the provincial agriculturist, particularly in the proper selection of deserving families to whom government breeding cattle would be loaned.

He suggested the formation of clubs or community groups in outlying areas for mass indoctrination on general principles of modern cattle breeding and the economic advantages of the project to poor famines.

Further elucidating on his plan, the President called attention to the Province of Batangas, where no large herds of cows belong to only one person. Most small farmers in that province were said to own several head each, raising and fattening them. As a result, the President said, Batangas has become among the first class beef suppliers in the country.

Accompanied by Director Sumulong and Fariñas, the President left Malacañang at 8:30 this morning. They motored to the Nichols airbase to board a plane to visit some nearby stock farm but realizing he would not be able to return on time for the scheduled Cabinet meeting at 10 a.m., the President changed his mind and instead continued his conference with the two officials at the base canteen.

Meanwhile, the President appointed Martin Aguilar, administrative officer of the Department of Education, as undersecretary of education.

The President presided over the Cabinet meeting from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The President and his Cabinet in a two-hour meeting resolved the question of the Farm implements and Machinery Corporation's claim of more than P1 1/2 million refund from the PNB, and accepted FIMCO's offer of an amicable settlement whereby the corporation would be given a license to export Philippine products to Japan in the amount of \$1,767,469 under the barter agreement.

The Cabinet also:

- (1) Received a preliminary report on the proposed fixing of floor prices for palay and ceiling prices for rice for the next fiscal year, and a statement on the rice situation;
- (2) Approved the President's plan of dispersing cattle stocks of the dairy farms of the Bureau of Animal Industry by distributing the cows to farmers; and
- (3) Received the latest report on the question of repatriation of over stayed Indonesians in Mindanao.

The Cabinet approved the report of Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason on the FIMCO contract and approved Tuason's recommendations as follows:

- (a) That the PNB should refund to the FIMCO the latter's overpayment in the amount of P1, 593,696.52; and
- (b) That FIMCO be granted a license to export Philippine products to Japan under the barter agreement in the amount of \$1,767,469 in exchange for Japanese cotton piece goods. This export license will be in full settlement of all claims which the FIMCO and its customers may have against the PNB and the NARIC for the suspension and cancellation of its contract.

The grant of the export license, however, is subject to the condition that this particular license be referred to the monetary board of the Central Bank for consideration and appropriate action.

The Cabinet was informed that the amicable settlement of the FIMCO case did not involve the grant of any dollar allocation to the FIMCO. It was also informed that the Government would receive benefits in the importation of Japanese goods by FIMCO in the form of customs duties estimated by the chief of the appraisers division of the Bureau of Customs at around P358,000, seven per cent sales tax at around P206,000, and one per cent municipal tax at around P51,000, all in all totalling P615,000.

The President received from Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta and ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo a preliminary report proposing to set the floor prices of palay and the ceiling prices of rice for the next production year. These prices will be based on the following considerations: (a) cost of production, (b) protection of consumers' interest, and (c) reasonable profits for distributors and millers.

It was agreed during the discussion that the margin between the floor prices of palay and the ceiling prices of rice would be such that there would be no room for profiteers, speculators, and hoarders. The big margin of profit that went to unscrupulous profiteers and hoarders in the past would be equally divided between producers and consumers under the present plan.

Regarding the solution of the immediate rice needs of the country, the Cabinet reiterated its former position that the importation of 100,000 metric tons of rice was sufficient for the present. It approved the Agriculture Department's plan to intensify the production of secondary crops like corn, cassava, camote, and other roots and tuber crops, mongo and other beans and vegetables.

The Cabinet, however, decided that the estimates of the total production of rice should be restudied one month from now and additional importation may be authorized if needed.

The Cabinet approved the President's plan of dispersing the stocks of cows from the government pilot dairy farm to deserving farmers and to other agencies like the 4-H clubs.

The President called this plan "Operation Dispersal." He said that he had already directed Director Sumulong of the Animal Industry to take steps in the distribution of cows from the government dairy farms to deserving farmers and to 4-H clubs. He added that he had laid aside P500, 000 for the purchase of cows from India for this purpose.

Vice-President Carlos P. Carcia reported to the Cabinet that the negotiations for the repatriation of the more than 6,000 Indonesians in Mindanao were to proceed on a government-to-government level between the Philippines and Indonesia. He said that after consultation with the Indonesian minister in the Philippines, he was informed that prompt action would be taken in renewing the negotiations which he hoped would result in fruitful conclusion. He added that he had not yet received word from the Taipeh Government regarding the case of the 3,000 overstayed Chinese.

During the Cabinet meeting, the President inquired from Justice Secretary Tuason on the status of the Madame X case. Secretary Tuason said that he would send for the papers of the case and that he would make an immediate study to expedite its early termination.

Sofronio Quimson, technical adviser on local governments, reported that the recent killing in Pangasinan was not due to political persecution. He said that he had just arrived from Lingayen, where he had spoken on behalf of the President at the necrological services honoring the late Teofilo Cabrera, one of the slain men, and that he had reliably learned that such charges were unfounded.

The President signed the appointment of Ambassador Felixberto Serrano as deputy chairman of the Philippine Mission to the United Nations. Gen. Carlos P. Romulo is chairman. Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia affixed his signature on Serrano's appointment papers.

The President inquired from Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., how the Department of Education was implementing the constitutional provision regarding religious instructions.

Secretary Hernandez answered that it was being offered at the option of the student as provided in the constitution. He added that religious instruction was voluntary and never forced on the students.

The President told Hernandez to see to it that those students who have chosen to take optional religious instruction be given good hours for such instruction.

The President issued this day Administrative Order No. 61, considering Meneleo Bernardez, member-secretary of the board of special inquiry, Bureau of Immigration, as resigned for highly unbecoming conduct as a public officer.

According to the report of a special investigator of the Department of Justice, Bernardez smelled of liquor and was very much under its influence during the hearing of the deportation cases against Sy Chuan and others on March 23 and 25, 1954. As a result of his intemperance, he was unusually aggressive and sarcastic in questioning the witness and in interpellating the special prosecutor. Bernardez was again seen drunk in office on the morning of March 27.

The publication in a local Chinese newspaper about Bernardez's behaviour during the hearing on March 23, to the effect that he was drunk and nearly featured in a fistcuff with defense counsel, prompted the administrative action of the President.

According to the President, the conduct of Bernardez on the occasions above referred to, clearly showed him to be wanting in proper decorum, which, besides creating a bad effect upon the morale of the office force, cast a poor reflection on the office in particular and the public service in general.

September 23.— AFTER BREAKFAST, the President motored to the residence of Senate President Rodriguez whose wife died early this morning. Accompanied by Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez and Press Secretary J. V. Cruz, the Chief Executive personally expressed his condolence to the Senate President. Earlier the President had sent a wreath for Mrs. Eulogio, Rodriguez immediately upon learning of her death.

The President this day appointed and inducted Dr. Jesus Perfiñan as acting assistant director of private schools. The new assistant director was formerly head of the department of psychology and director of the psychological service of the Far Eastern University. He was a graduate of Iowa and Columbia Universities.

The President also inducted into office Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro, Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, Col. Nicanor Jimenez, Carlos Nivera, and Narciso G. Reyes as board members of the newly-created Philippine Information Agency.

The President announced that he would create a fact-finding committee to look into the salaries, overtime pay, fare rates, and sanitary conditions of the shipping business after talking to a delegation of the striking Philippine Marine Officers Guild. Headed by Captains Enrique Razon and Salvador Yenko, the PMOG called to explain their grievances to the Chief Executive and asked him to conduct an investigation of their case, over which they had gone on strike.

Upon petition of Mayor Mamerto Azarias of Polilio, Quezon, the President released P35,000 for the construction of artesian wells in Polilio. Azarias explained to the President that about P75,000 was needed for the project, but the Chief Executive said that he could borrow the rest from the RFC.

Another P10,000 was released by the President for the improvement of the waterworks system of Gasan, Marinduque. The request for the amount was brought to the President by Gasan Mayor Francisco Sotto.

Argentine Minister to the Philippines Jose Manuel Moneta paid a courtesy call on the President prior to his departure for Argentina, where he is scheduled for reassignment.

Another caller of the President was Griffith May of Seattle, Washington, U. S. A., who is now on a Far Eastern tour. May informed the Chief Executive that home industry products of the Philippines were well-received in his state.

A progress report on the activities of NARRA was submitted to the President by Manager Eligio J. Tavanlar. Following a presidential directive, Tavanlar reported that the NARRA had already settled 2,059 people since January 1, 1954.

Tavanlar also said that the NARRA had obtained an allocation of \$200,000 from the FOA-PHILCUSA and had prepared all the list of equipment and other documents necessary to insure that the aid will be given to NARRA in 1954-1955.

The NARRA manager said that his present staff was composed of only 63 persons with a monthly payroll of P16, 227. He also informed the President that the survey and screening of applicants in the San Pedro Tunasan project had already been started by the NARRA.

Other callers of the President included Sen. Tomas Cabili. Mayor Jose Rodriguez of Cebu City, Frisco San Juan of the Philippine Veterans Legion, Dr. Manuel Cuenco, Vicente Lozada, Tereso Dumun, Harry Stonehill and Consul and Mrs. Jose Moreno.

The President signed this morning Proclamation No. 68, declaring Monday, September 27, 1954, a special public holiday in the province of Batangas. The proclamation is in honor of Gen. Miguel Malvar, who was born in that province.

President Magsaysay conferred the *Golden Heart* presidential award on US Minister William S. B. Lacy, during a luncheon tendered by President and Mrs. Magsaysay in honor of Minister and Mrs. Lacy at Malacañang.

The citation for the award, which was read by Foreign Affairs Under secretary Raul S. Manglapus, cited Lacy for "his outstanding role in the prosecution of the joint undertaking of the two countries to place their relationship on a firm and enduring basis."

Before presenting the award, the President said he was going to desist from delivering a long speech but instead was going to present Minister Lacy with tangible evidence of the Filipino people's and his own appreciation for the latter's efforts and services "not only for your own country but for our people as well."

After receiving the award "humbly", Lacy, who was visibly touched, said that what added luster to the decoration was the fact that he was receiving it from "one whose courage and leadership shine like a bright light not only in Asia but all over the world." Minister Lacy offered a toast for the continued good health and success of the President and another toast for the First Lady.

It was the second *Golden Heart* presentation since this presidential award was initiated at the instance of the President. The first awardee was Gen. Carlos P. Romulo.

September 24.—EARLY FRIDAY morning, the President had a breakfast conference with Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP Chief of staff, and Maj. Gen. Robert M. Cannon, chief of the JUSMAG.

Accompanied by his military aide, Capt. Patrocinio Garcia, the President left Malacañang about 8:30 a.m. to visit the revenue and customs offices. He left behind in Malacañang his press and security officers in his desire to have his visit a complete surprise.

During his surprise visit to the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the President inquired into delays in the prosecution of tax cases and ordered the legal and investigation divisions to work overtime, even on Sundays, to ferret out all those who were loathe to comply with their tax obligations. The President ordered the Bureau of Internal Revenue to rush action on pending tax cases involving millions of pesos.

The President arrived at the BIR office at the Department of Finance Building on Taft Avenue shortly before 9 a.m. He was shown around the offices by Silverio Blaquera, deputy collector of internal revenue.

At the office of the BIR-NBI group, Jose Aranas, chief of the specific tax division, reported that as of July 27 this year, 19 taxpayers against whom an assessment of P2,301,152.51 had been slapped, were discovered. The amount represented internal revenue taxes, surcharges, and penalties. From August 6 to 31 this year, Aranas reported, an additional 15 taxpayers from whom the sum of P2,534,770.71 as deficiency taxes, surcharges, and penalties had been ascertained, were also uncovered. The accumulative result, therefore, of the barely two-month existence of the revitalized BIR-NBI group yielded P4,835,923.22, Aranas said.

The President stayed at the BIR offices about 45 minutes. Noticing a large group of employees following behind him as he made rounds of the offices, the President asked the employees to return to their desks and keep on with their work.

From the BIR, the President proceeded to the Bureau of Customs in Port Area to inquire into the progress of tariff collections. He was escorted around the Customs offices by Commissioner Edilberto Y. David.

Timoteo Aceron, chief of the appraisers division, reported an increase of about P1 million in tariff collections from September 1 to 22 this year, as compared to the same period last year. The President stayed longest at the appraisers division, watching the examination of imported goods for proper tariff classification, and talking to a large group of traders who transacted business with the division.

Meanwhile, President Magsaysay expressed satisfaction over latest reports on the rat campaign in Mindanao. In a wire received at Malacañang today, Reps Domocao Alonto of Lanao and Luminog Mangelen of Cotabato informed the President that the farmers in the two provinces were cooperating fully with personnel of the Bureau of Plant Industry and the Bureau of Agricultural Extension of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources in the extermination of rodents.

The two solons reported that rat poisoning work in Cotabato saved corn and upland palay crop with a minimum of damage. They urged the increase in the manufacture of torpedo baits which, they said, had been very effective in keeping down rat destruction in Lanao and other Mindanao provinces.

Other messages reporting on splendid results on the current rat campaign were received from Mayors Jalandoni of Midsayap and Datu Mentang Samama of Dulawan, Cotabato.

Upon the recommendation of the Board on Pardons and Parole, President Magsaysay in the morning granted five conditional pardons and one commutation of sentence.

The President this day issued Executive Order No. 67, promulgating rules and regulations covering the detail or assignment of military personnel to civilian offices and officials.

According to the presidential order, only the President and the secretary of national defense are entitled to army, air force, and naval aides-de-camp in such number and of such grades as they may determine. General or flag officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the active service in any of the armed services, and general or flag officers of the Armed Forces, whether in the active, inactive, or retired status, who may be appointed Philippine diplomatic representatives with the rank of minister or higher may have aides-de-camp in such number and of such grades as the secretary of national defense may determine.

On the question of assignment of military assistants, the Chief Executive ruled that military assistants may be assigned to the office of the secretary of national defense in such number and of such grades as he may wish. With the President's approval, military assistants may also be assigned to the offices of the Vice-President, the Senate President, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Military assistants, the order said, must be in the active service of the Armed Forces. They shall receive the pay and allowances of their respective grades and ranks in the Armed Forces and such additional allowances and *per diems* as the law and the rules and regulations may allow.

The President also said that the defense secretary may detail personal military assistants to the Vice-President, the Senate President, the Speaker and the Philippine diplomatic representatives of the rank of minister or higher who is not otherwise entitled to an aide-de-camp, provided the following conditions are followed:

(a) Only one personal military assistant may be allowed each of such officials at any one time;

(b) The military grade of such military assistant shall not be higher than captain or lieutenant, senior grade; and

(c) The military assistant shall not collect from the Armed Forces, during the period of such assignment or detail, any allowances, traveling expenses, or *per diems* other than the pay and allowances he would be entitled to receive if he were on regular assignment or detail with units of the Armed Forces.

The presidential order further provided that the Chief of Staff may by arrangement with the head of any government office, agency, or entity assign to, or detail with, such office, agency, or entity an Armed Forces liaison officer.

Armed Forces security guards may be detailed to any civilian government official or to any private entity or person by the President, the defense secretary, or the AFP chief of staff when such detail would be in the public interest.

The President also reserved the power to assign commissioned officers of the Armed Forces to any civilian government office in addition to the assignments enumerated heretofore. This executive order does not, however, regulate or in any way apply to the assignment of army, air force, and naval attaches to Philippine missions abroad.

The President in the afternoon, made a surprise inspection of the province of Cavite to see the progress of the peace-and-order campaign and the rice situation in that province.

Accompanied only by his senior military aide, Col. Napoleon S. Valeriano, and Capt. Patrocinio Garcia, the President motored without escort to the 7th BCT headquarters in Tagaytay City, arriving there about 4:30 p.m.

The President conferred with Capt. Cornelio Mendoza, officer of the day, in the absence of Lt. Col. Laureano Marana, battalion commander, who was out in the field supervising his troops.

The Chief Executive went to the combat score board and found that the 7th BCT during the period from April to September had accounted for 279 firearms surrendered, 21 firearms captured, and 29 firearms confiscated, including some 1,000 rounds of ammunitions. The unit had 22 encounters with Huks, during which 14 dissidents had been killed, four probably killed, and seven wounded. The battalion suffered two casualties in these encounters.

The President learned that the Ongkiko kidnappers had been accounted for with one already captured, another by the name of Satsatin had been accidentally killed, and still another had fled to Iloilo.

He left the 7th BCT headquarters about 4:50 p.m. and on the way he met Maj. Perfecto P. Bunag, executive officer of the combat team, who was coming from an inspection of the troops. The Chief Executive invited Bunag to ride with him in the presidential car. During the motor trip, the President received more reports on the progress of the BCT's peace-and-order campaign from Maj. Bunag.

Maj. Bunag informed the President that the peace-and-order campaign within his area, especially in Cavite, has been very successful with no more hold-ups reported since May. He said that bandit Baltazar had only three companions left.

The President was elated to know from Bunag that the revenue collections from the towns in Cavite have increased by P8, 000 monthly since January. The Chief Executive observed that this was an index of the return to normalcy of the activities of the people owing to very much improved peace and order situation.

Bunag said as a result of the BCT's efforts in the province, the government agent are now free to go around unmolested in connection with the revenue collections. The President was also pleased to know that Cavite Governor Dominador Mangubat was helping very much in the peace-and-order campaign.

On the way to Manila, the President stopped in barrio Palapala in Dasmariñas, where he saw several men and women tenants threshing the newly harvested rice they called *dalikit*, a variety of upland rice. The Chief Executive

enjoyed himself watching the women thresh the rice with their feet. He talked with them for some time and said that he was happy they had rice to eat.

One, Mrs. Carmen Sayote-Licut, on behalf of the group, thanked the President for visiting them and talking with them. She said it was the first time the President of the Philippines had honored them with his presence and personal conversation.

Then the President dropped in on a newly built sari-sari store owned by Servillano Navarrete, near the threshing place. He talked with the store owner and learned that he was able to get capital for the store from his rice harvest. He said that he had built the store at a cost of P700 and that he usually made a net profit of P5 daily.

The President observed during his trip through Cavite that on either side of the road upland rice was robustly growing where they had not been cultivated before. He saw that several rice fields had already been harvested. He said that he thought the people of Cavite would not lack in rice.

The President congratulated Col. Marana and the officers and men of the 7th BCT, through Major Bunag, for the good job they were doing in improving the peace-and-order situation in Cavite.

The President arrived at Malacañang about 6 p.m. Feeling tired, he retired early in the evening.

September 25.—THE PRESIDENT this morning received Col. Salvador Villa, general manager of the Manila Railroad Company, who called to submit a progress report on the operations of the railroad.

Col. Villa reported that eight new diesel-electric locomotives would be purchased by the railroad firm and would be in operation by March of next year. Villa said that bids for the locomotives had already been received from American, Japanese, German, and English manufacturers and that the American bid seemed the most acceptable.

The MRR manager also reported that:

1. Three new locomotives for the Philippine Railway in Panay would be put into operation in December;
2. MRR warehouses in the North Harbor would be completed in December for the storage of copra, fertilizers, sugar, and other commodities for import and export;
3. Air-conditioned coaches for the Bicol run which had been bought from Japan would arrive in Manila before the end of the year;
4. Sixty 30-ton box cars of the MRR currently being rehabilitated would be ready for use in November and an additional 100 thirty-ton all-steel box cars from the United States would be in operation in January next year.

Col. Villa explained that the equipment totalling 160 box cars would give the MRR added capacity to handle freight equal to 480 trailer trucks with 10 tons capacity each.

Following his conference with the railroad manager, the President received Raymond Meyer and Clinton Morrison, regional director and deputy regional director, respectively, of the U. S. Foreign Operations Administration in the Far East. The two officials called to pay their respects prior to their return to Washington after attending a five-day FOA regional conference in Manila. They were accompanied to Malacañang by Col. Harry A. Brenn, chief of the FOA office in Manila.

Later in the morning, Minister Felino Neri, who had been designated to head the negotiating panel for Japanese reparations, reported on the outcome of his conference with Sen. Claro M. Recto, head of the three-man party committee appointed by the Council of Leaders to study the Hernandez reparations report. The meeting of the Recto committee was attended by Reps. Cornelio Villareal of Capiz and Serafin Salvador of Rizal, Finance Secretary

Jaime Hernandez, head of the presidential mission which surveyed the economic conditions in Japan, and Minister Neri.

Regarding the Suzuki statement on the reparations question, Neri said Saturday that as it represented the official position of the Japanese Government, it was unfortunate because it was said at a time when “we were making progress towards clarifying our position and mapping out a definite course of action on the reparations question as to whether the two Governments should decide to resume negotiations.”

Neri said that at Friday’s meeting the Recto committee had reached complete accord on all points on which the solution to the reparations problems hinges by approaching the matter with open mind and from a realistic point of view, guided by the findings of the Hernandez mission.

Other morning callers included Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, and Rep. Jose Puey of Negros Occidental.

Rep. Puey complained to the President that the vice-mayor of Sagay, Negros Occidental, Bruno Cueva, who is now the acting mayor of the town, has been laying off employees, including eligibles and non-eligibles. The President called Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Gastro and directed him to wire Cueva to stop laying off employees unless it is for cause.

The President left Malacañang about 11 a.m., but he was back at a little past 12 noon for his lunch. He left again late in the afternoon for horseback riding. By 8 p.m., the President was back at the Palace.

Malacañang this day called the attention of all officials of the government to the fact that some persons used frequently the names of the President and of the Executive Secretary to expedite pending official matters in which such persons were personally interested.

Executive Secretary Castro in a circular letter enjoined all government officials to check in any doubtful case with him as to whether such representations involving the name of the President or that of the Executive Secretary were correct.

The Malacañang circular was prompted by the fact that oftentimes the names of the President and of the Executive Secretary were used either verbally, in writing, or by telephone, by unscrupulous persons who had no authority to do so.

September 26.—THE PRESIDENT attended the funeral of Mrs. Juana Rodriguez, wife of Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, who died early Thursday morning, September 23.

Leaving Malacañang at about 6:30 a.m., the President motored to the residence of the Senate President in Quezon City, where he heard mass said for the late Mrs. Rodriguez. The President condoled with the children and relatives of the deceased, spending most of his time talking with them.

From the residence of Senate President Rodriguez, the President attended the funeral procession to Montalban, Rizal, where the deceased was interred. The President walked up to the cemetery behind the church in Montalban. Almost all the top ranking officials of the government were also present.

The Chief Executive returned to Malacañang shortly before noon.

After lunch-time, the President received Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia and Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug and discussed with them the charges filed against them before the Senate defense committee on their alleged blunders in their presentation of the Philippine position in the PI-US defense talks held on September 4 last.

The President gave permission to the two cabinet members and some Armed Forces officers to appear before the Senate defense committee Monday, September 27, at the latter's invitation to discuss the recent PI-US defense council meeting.

Two Cabinet members, Vice-President and concurrently Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Garcia and Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug, and Armed Forces officers headed by Chief of Staff Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas came to Malacañang to consult the Chief Executive on the Senate invitation. Officials of the executive departments require the Chief Executive's authority to appear before congressional bodies.

The President flashed the green light for the group's appearance before the Senate with the only stipulation that the Senate committee be requested to hold the hearing behind close doors. This is due to the fact that matters affecting the security of the state will be discussed.

Those who saw and conferred with the Chief Executive, aside from Garcia, Cabahug, and Vargas, were Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, Brig. Gen. Eulogio Balao, Brig. Gen. Pelagio A. Cruz, Brig. Gen. Alfonso Arellano, Commodore Jose M. Francisco, Navy Capt. Rafael Pargas, and Press Secretary J. V. Cruz.

The President this day appointed Press Secretary J. V. Cruz to the special committee to study the Philippine motion picture industry. Cruz is the fourth member of the committee, together with Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, chairman; and Commerce Undersecretary Perfecto Laguio and Cesar Lorenzo of the Central Bank, members.

The committee is charged with the task of studying the problems of the local motion picture industry and recommending measures to help it.

Malacañang announced this day that the sum of P31,165.35 had been received so far as voluntary contributions to the President's Liberty Wells fund given on the occasion of the Chief Executive's last birthday.

Out of this amount P15,518.80 has been received in Malacañang while P15,646.55 has been received by the Liberty Wells Association. Dr. Albino Sycip, treasurer of the association, revealed that aside from this sum, several pledges from the provinces and cities amounting to P13, 000, including seven artesian wells, had been promised to the President on his last birthday. This does not include thousands of pesos already raised by the Association.

President Magsaysay expressed his thanks to all those who had enthusiastically contributed to the Liberty Wells fund. He said that with the spontaneous response of the public to his an-artesian-well-for-every-barrio project, he looked optimistically forward to its realization.

The President issued this day Administrative Order No. 63, creating a committee to investigate the administrative charge against Manila Councilors Francis Yuseco, Justo Ibay, and Ruperto Cristobal for alleged dishonesty.

The councilors were charged that for, and in consideration of, the approval by the municipal board of a resolution granting permit to the Lino Terminal Market Association to establish a *talipapa* at a vacant site bound by Elcano, Asuncion, and Zaragoza Streets, the councilors had allegedly received P5, 000 from Juanita Lirio y Lanting.

Named to the investigating committee were: Dr. Gaudencio Garcia, chairman, and Solicitor Ramon Avanceña and Malacañang Technical Assistant Jesus Paredes as members.

September 27.—EARLY in the morning, the President administered the oath of office to Joaquin Chipeco as member of the board of directors of the Home Financing Commission. Among those present at the induction were Rep. Wenceslao Lagumbay of Laguna and Mayor Manuel Agbada of Paete.

Ten Manila councilors headed by Board President Francis Yuseco saw the President this morning and recited about a dozen charges against the city mayor. The charges ranged from rape, falsification of public documents, and

physical injuries, to abuse of authority and drunkenness in office. The city dads presented affidavits executed by allegedly aggrieved parties in support of their charges.

In the course of the call at Malacañang of the Manila board members who suggested the suspension of all the city officials concerned, the President said he was going to consult the investigating committee on the question of suspending all Manila officials involved in administrative charges and counter-charges filed with Malacañang by Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson and members of the municipal board.

The President expressed preference to hold joint hearings at Malacañang to avoid any suspicion of partiality in the adjudication of the cases. On the request of the councilors, the President ordered Brig. Gen. Florencio Selga, PC chief, to extend protection to the councilors and their witnesses.

Besides Yuseco, the councilors at Malacañang this morning were Marciano Santos, Justo Ibay, Ruperto Cristobal, Hermenegildo Gonzaga, Victoriano Banaag, Eriberto Remigio, Gonzalo Santos Rivera, and Fausto Alberto Also with the group was Angel M. San Jose, board secretary.

After the councilors had left, the President issued Proclamation No—, declaring the period from October 24 to 31 this year, and every week beginning with the fourth Sunday of every October thereafter as Barrio Farmer s Week.

The President, in his proclamation, pointed out that there were 15-million Filipinos living in the rural areas under economic and social conditions which cried for improvement. He expressed the hope that national progress might be advanced a great deal by pursuing a program of amelioration operating at the barrio level. The Chief Executive, in his proclamation, also directed and authorized municipal, provincial, and national government officials to make available their facilities and personnel in the successful prosecution of the objectives of the Barrio Farmer's Week.

The proclamation which was signed by the President was submitted by Agriculture Undersecretary Jaime Ferrer, who called at Malacañang to consult the President on certain problems of his department.

The President received callers from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at his office at the Executive Building. Representatives of civic organizations from Cavite requested the President P60, 000 for the improvement of the athletic grounds of Cavite City in preparation for the forthcoming provincial meet in December and the Southern Tagalog athletic meet.

Accompanied by Senator Justiniano Montano, the Cavite delegation included City Mayor Fidel Dones; Dr. Hernando Bautista, Rotary president; Nenrod Peñaflor, Jaycees president; Col. Arturo A. Reyes, puericulture center club president; Emiliano Ramirez, division superintendent of schools; and Capt. Frank Gil of Sangley Point.

Another delegation of municipal officials from the fifth district of Pangasinan requested financial assistance for the construction of a market, a hospital, and an irrigation system in their locality. Headed by Rep. Justino Benito, the group included Mayors Juan Castillo of Umingan, Felipe Peralta of Balongao, Luis Pimentel of Natividad, Paulo Bugcat of San Manuel, and ex-Rep. Cipriano S. Alias.

Representative Justino Nuyda of Albay accompanied several Legaspi councilors who requested P15, 000 for the construction of a public market.

Other callers included Sen. Tomas Cabili, Reps. Jose Puey of Negros Occidental, who asked P5, 000 for the Bacolod orphanage and puericulture center, Maximino Noel of Cebu, Felipe Abeleda of Mindoro Occidental, Domingo Veloso and Miguel Cinco of Leyte, Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur, Lucas Paredes of Abra, Samuel F. Reyes of Isabela, Carlos Hilado of Negros Occidental, and Gov. Juan Alberto of Catanduanes.

In the afternoon the President gave a merienda (sandwiches and coffee) to reporters covering Malacañang.

The President told the Malacañang reporters in an informal press conference in the afternoon that he was gravely concerned over the reported situation in Muntinlupa national penitentiary. He said he expects a report from Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason this day on the conditions obtaining in the insular prison.

The Chief Executive hinted that if conditions in Muntinlupa were as bad as they had been reported, radical reforms were in order. He said, however, he could not take action until he had received and studied Tuason's report.

It has been reported that Communist convicts in Muntinlupa have been able to indoctrinate non-Communist inmates in the insular prisons and that they have been able to keep other inmates of the national penitentiary posted on Communist activities abroad within 24 hours after these had occurred by means of an elaborate courier system.

September 28.— BEFORE receiving callers at his executive office in the morning, the President conferred with Minister Felino Neri, chairman of the Philippine panel on the reparations issue, and Sen. Claro M. Recto, chairman of the Council of Leaders' committee named to advise the Neri panel on the reparations question. After the 30-minute conference which started at 8:30 a.m., the President announced the postponement of a meeting of the Council of Leaders, scheduled for October 1, to discuss the reparations question, pending further report from Minister Neri.

Neri announced after the meeting with the Chief Executive that he was meeting later this day with Japanese Minister Katsurru Ohno at Neri's office.

Immediately after his conference with Recto and Neri, the President proceeded to his executive office, where he received numerous callers.

Among the early callers were Education Secretary Gregono Hernandez, Jr.; Senators Emmanuel Pelaez, Edmundo Cea, and Macario Peralta Jr.; Rep. Florencio Moreno of Romblon; PHILCOA Manager Benjamin Salvosa; and Govs. Rafael Lazatin of Pampanga, Dominador Chipeco of Laguna, and Juan Alberto of Catanduanes.

Secretary Hernandez saw the President about the readjustment of salaries of superintendent of schools throughout the country to implement a law passed recently by Congress standardizing the salaries of division superintendents of schools. Under the new law, a sliding salary scale for superintendents was provided with the maximum set at P7,200 per annum.

The President authorized Financial Assistant Rodolfo P. Andal to release the sum of P200, 000 to implement the law standardizing the salaries of superintendents.

The President this morning received Prof. Arthur Vandenberg, Jr., son of the late U. S. Senator Vandenberg, who called at Malacañang to pay his respects following his recent arrival in Manila in the course of a fact finding world tour.

"I simply wanted to meet the man who is widely admired in the United States," Prof. Vandenberg said, explaining his visit to the President. "The American people think you are doing a splendid job here."

Accompanied by John Nalley, public affairs officer of the U. S. Embassy in Manila, Vandenberg informed the President that he was gathering data for his lectures in the University of Miami, Florida. This was his first visit to the Philippines.

The President, in turn, inquired about the family of the late Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, former chief of the U. S. Airforce, a cousin of the Professor. The President recalled that Gen. Vandenberg used to occupy a room and joining his at the Walter Reed Hospital during his brief confinement there in 1952.

A large delegation of municipal officials from Balanga, Bataan, called to request financial assistance for the construction of their municipal building, for the installation of liberty wells, and other public works projects of the town.

Headed by Mayor Faustino Vigo, the Balanga group included Vice-Mayor Jose Gonzales; Municipal Treasurer Dominador Valdecañas; and Councilors Saturnino Arcebido, Jose Escudero, Bernardo Travate, Federico Diaz, Melencio Beltran, Antonio Vanzon, and Miguel Sanchez.

Mayor Arturo Magay of Puerto Princesa, Palawan, requested water works for his municipality. Accompanied by Gov. Patricio Fernandez, Mayor Magay also thanked the President for turning over to his municipality 1,500 hectares of land which formerly belong to the Iwahig Penal Colony. Magay said that the land had already been subdivided into small lots for distribution to settlers.

The President received callers at his executive office until 11:30 a.m. Then he repaired to his private study, where he tackled a pile of pending state papers. Among his other callers were Rep. Pedro Lopez of Cebu and former Labor Director Felipe Jose.

Acting swiftly to prevent a recurrence of the recent outbreaks of violence in the New Bilibid Prison, President Magsaysay this day issued Proclamation No. 72, reserving as the Sablayan Penal Colony and farm a certain parcel of public domain situated in Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro. According to the presidential proclamation, the present acute congestion in the New Bilibid Prison, which is one of the factors responsible for outbreaks of violence among prison inmates, makes it imperative that immediate measures be taken to provide additional accommodations other than the three existing penal colonies for the increasing prison population. Besides the New Bilibid Prison, the two other penal colonies in the country are the Davao and the Iwahig Penal Colonies.

The proposed site, which was recommended by Director of Prisons Alfredo Bunye and Director of Lands Zoilo Castrillo, was approved by the President in view of its being "ideal for a rehabilitation farm because of its location and area and the suitability of its soil to diversified farming."

In an unprecedented bid to promote closer understanding and friend ship between the Philippines and Asiatic nations, President Magsaysay also issued this day Executive Order No. 70, creating an Asian Good Neighbor Relations Commission as well as Administrative Order No. 64, naming the members thereof.

The Asian Good Neighbor Relations Commission was created to promote more intimate understanding of the aims and aspirations of the Filipino people, better appreciation of their culture and progress as a Christian and democratic nation, and closer relations with their Asian neighbors.

In explaining the aims and objectives of the new commission, the President said that "it is highly desirable not only that we should know our fellow Asians better and cooperate with them more for mutual benefit but that our aims and aspirations as a people should also be more widely understood and appreciated by them."

Dr. Mariano de los Santos, president of the University of Manila, was designated chairman of the commission which has the following as members: Modesto Farolan, Prof. Nicolas Zafra, Joaquin Rocas, Eugenio Puyat, Felino Neri, Miss Helen Benitez, Mrs. Tarhata Kiram-Salvador, and Mrs. Claudio Tee Han Kee.

President Magsaysay this day created a three-man committee to coordinate the studies, investigations, and surveys that may be undertaken by the National Power Corporation, the Bureau of Public Works, and other government offices or agencies in connection with the planning of any multipurpose development project involving electric power generation, flood control, irrigation, and water supply.

Named by the President to the committee were Secretary Alfredo Montelibano, the executive director of the National Economic Council, as chair man, and a representative each from the Bureau of Public Works and the National Power Corporation as members. The committee is directly under the National Economic Council.

The Chief Executive also issued this day Administrative Order No. 66, reprimanding Eugenio Maghirang, chief of the San Pablo City fire department, for conduct unbecoming a public officer.

Justice tempered with mercy was meted out by the President in his decision on the administrative case against Maghirang. Maghirang was charged by his subordinates with inefficiency and incompetence, conduct unbecoming a public officer, neglect of duty, oppression (assault upon a fireman), and abuse of authority (ordering a fireman to cook in the house of a friend during the town fiesta).

In the evening, after an inspection of the San Lazaro Hospital premises, the President decided to have the new P2 1/2-million general hospital face Tayuman Street instead of Rizal Avenue.

Under this plan, the old hospital pavilions scattered on the San Lazaro compound would not be demolished as previously planned. Instead, the President further decided to release P100, 000 for the rehabilitation of these old buildings.

The President made this decision in the presence of Manila Councilor Marciano Santos and Dr. Felix Velasco, chief of the San Lazaro Hospital, Dr. Pedro Lantin, and other officials and nurses of the hospital. It was greeted with a resounding approval by the big crowd which milled around the President as he made the rounds of the different hospital pavilions.

Councilor Santos and hospital officials said the decision was wise. They remarked that if the old pavilions were to be demolished and the patients transferred to an army hospital, as previously planned, the old hospital space would be eliminated and that would not result in accommodation of more patients.

Accompanied by his aide, Capt. Patrocinio Garcia, the President arrived at the hospital compound at about 4:30 p.m. He was met by Councilor Santos and hospital officials headed by Dr. Felix Velasco.

The President, accompanied by hospital officials, went first through the contagious diseases pavilion, where female and children patients suffering from gastro-enteritis are hospitalized. He was informed that in that section of the hospital there were more than 700 patients.

Then he proceeded to Pavilion 8, where respiratory cases are being treated and then to Pavilion 7, where children are confined. In the course of his hospital tour, he inquired how many patients one nurse cared for. He was told that each nurse had charge of 73 patients, whereas it should be only 8.

At the children's pavilion, the President told his aide to buy candies and cookies for the children.

The President was followed everywhere he went by a big crowd which shouted several times, "Mabuhay, President Magsaysay." He shook hands with many of them. The President left the hospital compound at 5:15 p.m.

September 29.—PRESIDENT MAGSAYSAY in the morning inducted into office Martin Aguilar as acting undersecretary of education and Antonio Aspillera as public service commissioner.

In his extemporaneous remarks after the induction ceremonies, the President made known his desire for the revision of the curriculum on technical courses because of the apparent lack of technical men in the country.

He said that many firm managements had been complaining that they could not find enough good engineers, mechanics, and bulldozer drivers from the country's schools.

"I am not satisfied with the curriculum of the trade and vocational schools. They have to be revised in order to give our young people good training in technical courses," the President said.

The President also told the two new officials to work 24-hours a day if necessary. He said that public servants should work with a missionary zeal, honesty, and efficiency.

Explaining what he meant by missionary zeal, the President said that it is giving the people more than they expect from public official. The Chief Executive told a story of how he received a telegram at midnight from a poor farmer in San Quintin, Pangasinan, asking help for his very sick wife. He said he immediately called the 1st MA headquarters that same night and the next morning, at 3 a.m., the sick woman was being taken care of by a doctor in the 1st MA station hospital in Camp Olivas, Pampanga.

“That is the kind of public service the people expect from us” the President said.

The President also pointed out that the goal of his administration is to win the confidence of the people so that they would not fall into the clutches of Communism. He reiterated that service should be given by public servants equally to both the rich and the poor. He told the two new officials that he would back them up 100 per cent if they were right but that he would go after them if they were wrong.

Present at the induction ceremonies were ranking officials of the Department of Education and of the Public Service Commission led by Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., and the wives children relatives, and friends of the new officials.

After the induction, the President saw Health Secretary Paulino Garcia, Bureau of Hospitals Director Tranquilino Elicano, Dr. Ricardo Alfonso, chairman of the building committee program of hospitals, and Architect Antonio V. Bañez, who showed the Chief Executive the plan for the P2.5 million North General Hospital building to be constructed in the San Lazaro compound in Rizal Avenue.

Earlier, the President received Henry W. St. Onge, Far East supervisor of Harnischfeger Corporation of the United States, and Jack Langstone of the Earnshaw Docks and Honolulu Iron Works. The two executives talked about the possibility of extending to the Philippines the services of their firms which deal in power engines for roads and irrigation. They were accompanied by Ramon Osmeña.

Another visitor of the President was Frank Harker Born of Australia, who talked about Philippine importation of cattle from his country. Born was accompanied by Juan C. Orendain.

The President received a copy of *MacArthur—1941-1951* from Maj. Gen. Charles Wiloughby, author of the book. The book had a personal dedication to the President by the author.

Abe Albayade, Filipino correspondent from Hawaii, paid a courtesy call on the President.

After receiving a number of callers in the morning, the President convoked the regular weekly meeting of the Cabinet about 10 a.m. After having taken up some pressing matters on the agenda, he invited members of the Cabinet to accompany him to San Lazaro and help him decide on the proposed construction of the new hospital.

“This is a two-million peso proposition and it needs careful consideration,” he said. The Cabinet meeting lasted only about 30 minutes.

Arriving at the hospital compound shortly before 11 a.m., the President and the department secretaries first visited the pavilions earmarked for demolition. The Chief Executive found the buildings still in good condition and considered it a waste of time and money to have them destroyed and replaced with modern structures with the same bed capacity.

The President, instead, decided to rehabilitate those buildings and make them part of the new general hospital. He ordered Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, who was with the inspection party, to release the necessary sum for the rehabilitation of the buildings.

The President and his party spent more than one hour going over the entire hospital compound. Following close behind him were Health Secretary Paulino Garcia and Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa. Also following closely as the President made a thorough survey of the premises were Dr. Ricardo Alfonso, chairman of the building committee program on hospitals, and Antonio V. Banes, architect, who carried along plans and sketches for ready reference.

During the tour of the premises, patients, doctors, and nurses peeped out of windows and waved down at the President as the inspection party passed by the wards. The President waved back at them. The President walked so fast that even younger members of the Cabinet found difficulty keeping up with his pace under the heat of the noonday sun.

The Chief Executive made a brief visits to several pavilions, including the chest clinic, the X-Ray laboratory, and award for contagious diseases. He talked with patients and inquired from officials in charge about the adequacy of their equipment.

The President also authorized this morning the release of P700, 000 to make possible the award of some 50,000 land patents this year and to expedite the granting of titles to homestead applicants all over the country. The amount would be used to cover the cost of survey, supplies, and traveling expenses of men of the Bureau of Lands assigned to investigate land patent applications.

Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta, in a conference with the President disclosed that there were about 75,000 patent applications now pending in the Bureau of Lands, where it had accumulated for the last five years owing to lack of facilities of the government.

Secretary Araneta reported that patent applications were currently being disposed of at the rate of 3,000 a month as compared to 3,000 a year under the previous administration. He recommended the release of additional funds to enable the Bureau of Lands to catch up with the tremendous backlog of pending applications.

In making available the amount of P700,000 for the purpose, the President saw the necessity of awarding land patents to the farmer-applicants as soon as possible. The poor farmers could use their patent to obtain credit from some banking institutions and acquire the necessary capital with which to develop their small landholdings, he said.

The President ordered Director Zoilo Castrillo of the Bureau of Lands, who was present at the conference, to go full blast on the granting of land patents. The conference was held at the San Lazaro hospital grounds in the course of the President's inspection tour of the premises.

The President returned to Malacañang about 12:30 p.m.

The Cabinet, at its weekly meeting this day, reiterated the previously announced policy to suspend all proceedings challenging the right of Public servants to their landholdings, particularly in Mindanao, pending the conclusion of a study of the problem being undertaken by a special committee under the chairmanship of Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta.

Until this committee has submitted its report and recommendation, the Cabinet advises landholders not to be alarmed and assures them full protection of their lawful rights. In the meantime, the Cabinet described as premature, the statements and actions impugning the validity or legality of landholdings of public servants.

Members of the Araneta committee are Education Secretary Grogorio Hernandez, Jr.; Justice Undersecretary Jesus Barrera; one representative from the Office of the President; and Baldomero T. Olivera, manager of the *Philippine News Service*.

The Cabinet also heard Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia disclose the circumstances surrounding the recent grant of temporary visitor's visas to Chinese and Japanese nationals entering the Philippines. The Vice-President pointed out

that he had been trying to clear lately a backlog of applications which had accumulated for four months, and consequently it was natural that the grant of temporary visitor's visas should register an increase.

Regarding the influx of Japanese nationals, the Vice-President pointed out that these were technicians requested by Filipino corporations. They will remain in the country only as long as they are needed and until they have completed the training of Filipinos who will replace them.

The Vice-President also emphasized that temporary visitors are required to post cash bonds of P10,000 each and that the Government will not hesitate to seize these bonds as well as expel the transients concerned in cases of over staying.

September 30.—THE PRESIDENT in the morning authorized the release of P600,000 for the pre-fabricated schoolbuilding program of the government aimed at providing schoolhouses for various localities all over the country, particularly in the rural areas. Release of the amount was made in the course of his conference with Col. Antonio Chanco, chief of APP corps of engineers, who had been assigned to take charge of the manufacture of cheap, two-room, prefab schoolbuilding.

Col. Chanco reported that the first prefab plant, which had already been set up in Panaka, Palawan, is expected to turn out about 50 units a month once it starts full operation. Chanco informed the President that his main problem was lack of materials. He asked the Chief Executive to help him get the cooperation of big lumber firms so that a continuous supply of seasoned wood would be made available to the prefab plants.

The President limited himself to a few callers this morning in his desire to dispose of a number of important pending state papers. He closeted himself with Executive Secretary Fred Huiz Castro in his private study from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Among his early morning callers were Gov. Patricio Fernandez of Palawan, who presented him with a pair of mouse deer said to be found only in Balabac Islands; Lieut Gen. Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff; and Rep. Arturo M. Tolentino of Manila.

The President directed Collector of Internal Revenue J. Antonio Araneta to go ahead with the sale of the property of Mrs. Maria Espinosa Castro, also known as "Madame X", to pay her unpaid taxes from 1946 amounting to P4,600,000. Mrs. Castro, accompanied by BIR Collector Araneta and BIR agents Marcelo Santiago and Ubaldo Tabing, saw the President and explained the case to him.

Araneta told the President that the BIR was scheduled to sell the property of "Madame X", which the BIR had seized as payment for her unpaid taxes in November. The tax evasion case against Mrs. Castro had been decided two years ago but she refused to comply with the decision to pay her unpaid taxes.

"Madame X", according to Araneta, had asked for a re-investigation of her case and had even filed an injunction with the Supreme Court. Araneta turned down the request, saying that if the property would not be sold, the interest on the unpaid taxes of Mrs. Castro would accumulate and her liability would thus increase. The interest on unpaid taxes of Mrs. Castro amounts to about P800 a day.

The President also ordered the investigation of alleged bribery and blackmail involving high officials of the National Shipyards and Steel Corporation. The President issued the order upon receiving reports that a former ranking official of the corporation during the past administration who had lost his job had managed to be reinstated by allegedly bribing a board member.

In the afternoon, about 4:30, the President received Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson, who consulted the Chief Executive on what action to take on the enforcement of a municipal ordinance regarding the prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquor in bars which abound near schools in the city. According to Mayor Lacson, enforcing the ordinance to the letter would result in the loss of big revenues to the National and the City Government as even the

sale of beer by San Miguel Brewery would be prohibited, this establishment, being situated within the prohibited area. He added that similar establishments and restaurants would be affected.

It was decided that the ordinance should be interpreted in the original spirit in which it was conceived, and that establishments should be construed as meaning bars. The President, however, said that the ordinance should be so amended and that he would help in this direction.

In the evening, the Chief Executive appointed a committee with Prof. Enrique Fernando as chairman and Malacañang Technical Assistant Ignacio Debuque, Jr., and Maj. Francisco Jimenez as members to investigate the alleged anomalies in the NASSCO. He directed the committee to start the probe immediately and submit to him their findings.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Month in Review: October, 1954

President's Month in Review: November, 1954

President's Month in Review: December, 1954

President's Month in Review: January, 1955

Official Month in Review

January 1.—PRESIDENT and Mrs. Magsaysay received thousands of well-wishers who trooped to Malacañang this morning during the traditional New Year's Day reception given yearly by the Chief of State.

The President and the First Lady stood at the reception line for about two and one-half hours as they shook hands with their greeters composed mainly of government officials; members of the diplomatic corps; officers of various civic, educational, and business organizations; newspaper, radio, motion picture, and TV representatives; and other friends and admirers.

During a brief break, Mons. Egidio Vagnozzi, papal nuncio, on behalf of his colleagues in the diplomatic corps, offered a toast for the continued success and prosperity of the Philippine nation. The President responded by wishing peace and goodwill for all freedom-loving nations of the world.

The reception started promptly at 10 a.m. Among the first greeters were the senators and their ladies, headed by Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr. Then came the representatives and their ladies, led by Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr.

The justices of the Supreme Court and the members of the Cabinet and the Council of State went past the reception line at 10:20 a.m. as scheduled. Chief Justice Ricardo Paras who headed the delegation of Supreme Court justices, brought along Justice George A. Malcolm, former justice of the high tribunal and organizer of the College of Law of the University of the Philippines.

Then followed the diplomatic group, justices of the court of appeals, election commissioners, Philippine diplomatic officials, department undersecretaries, public service commissioners, judges, ranking officials of the Philippine and the U. S. Armed Forces, officials of U. S. federal and international agencies in the Philippines; provincial, city, and municipal officials.

Although the affair had been scheduled to terminate at 12 noon, the crowd of well-wishers kept streaming past the reception line up to about 12:30 p.m.

Visitors were impressed with the orderly manner with which the affair had been conducted. The seemingly endless line of greeters flowed smoothly by the reception line into the hall where they were served cookies and eggnog. After brief exchanges of greetings with other visitors in the hall, the callers went down the Palace through the exit stairs, thus avoiding overcrowding in the hall. A detachment of Army officers, looking neat and smart in their white duck uniforms, guided the greeters through the building.

Among the last greeters were representatives from the Foundation for the Blind of the Philippines, an organization composed of blind men and women. Nicomedes S. Maligat, organization president, presented the President with a resolution which partly read as follows: "We may not be able to see it, Mr. President, but in our mind's eye, we feel that in your first year at the helm of our State, you have at once set an improvement over the past administrations and a model for future ones."

Following the reception, the President and the First Lady remained briefly at the hall chatting with their guests, before taking a rest

Earlier this morning, the President heard mass at the Malacañang chapel with members of his family. After having a light breakfast, he held conferences with some Malacañang assistants who consulted him on some pressing official matters.

Some 10,000 people, from the highest to the lowest strata of society, of all ages and coming from different points of the Philippines trekked to Malacañang on New Year's Day, morning and afternoon, to greet President and Mrs. Magsaysay and to visit the presidential residence.

Malacañang was opened to the public from 2:30 to past 5 in the afternoon. The afternoon visitors were conducted on a guided tour of the presidential residence by select men of the presidential guard battalion.

Wishing to greet some of the afternoon callers, the President went out of his study room and shook hands with hundreds of the visitors.

Among the identified afternoon callers was Mrs. Paula Garcia, 95 years old who came all the way from San Narciso, Quezon, to greet the President. Another more demonstrative caller was Federico E. Tobola of Magallon, Negros Occidental, who read to the President a poem which he had written paying tribute to the Chief Executive. Tobola said he had been inspired by what the President had been doing from the time he was defense secretary, when he saved the people in Magallon from what he called a reign of terror. The President thanked him for his kind thoughts and for dedicating a poem to him.

The youngest of the afternoon callers was Baby Charity Vergara Barros, one-and-a-half months old, who was brought by her mother all the way from Baguio in order to be able to extend its New Year's greetings to the President and the First Lady.

The President was touched by this token of affection of people who had come from various parts of the Philippines to wish him further successes in the New Year. He posed with them for souvenir pictures.

Earlier in the afternoon, the President received at his study room a delegation of the Pasay Lions Club headed by its president, Simeon Rene Lacson, who presented the Chief Executive with a plaque making him an honorary member. The plaque also expressed the club's admiration to the President for his being a "consummate statesman, stalwart and dynamic executive, unpretentious and unassuming, beloved and benign Filipino leader, defender of democracy, and champion of the masses in their struggle for social and economic welfare." The inscription added that "in recognition of his loyal, valiant, and devoted service to his people, this humble token of appreciation and gratitude is sincerely dedicated."

Other members of the delegation were Francisco Victor, Frisco Evangelista, I. Christian Monsod, Ignacio Lizo, Eduardo Torres, and Silverio Ingreso.

In the evening, the President directed Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro to investigate the report that an alleged Malacañang employee, Antenor Parazo, had been obstructing the course of justice by preventing Guadalupe Panganiban, the key witness in the Ramos murder, from testifying. The President ordered the immediate investigation of the report in the interest of speedy justice.

Quezon City Chief of Police Vicente Novales, in the course of his New Year's call on the President this morning, informed the Chief Executive of the matter. The President said that if the report was true, the person would be immediately, dismissed from office.

Newspaper reports that Parazo was a Malacañang employee were corrected by Malacañang which said he was an employee of the Department of National Defense.

January 2.—THE PRESIDENT spent a quiet Sunday today, hearing mass with members of his family at 7:30 a.m. at the Malacañang chapel.

At 10 a.m., the President motored to the residence of Sen. Claro M. Recto to visit the legislator, who has been ailing. The Chief Executive stayed with Recto for 30 minutes and then returned to Malacañang.

In the afternoon, the President received Col. Cornelio T. Bondad, 3rd Military Area Commander, and Lt. Col. Felipe M. Fetalvero, PC provincial commander of Cebu, who reported on peace-and-order conditions in their area.

Col. Bondad informed the President that peace and order in his area was normal. He said that with the liquidation of bandit Susaya sometime ago and the recent capture of bandit Alfredo Salazar of Leyte, who had been sentenced to prison, there was no more banditry in his sector.

The two officers informed the President that the presidential ban on the slaughter of carabaos had contributed much to the disappearance of cattle rustling and banditry. They said that the ban had contributed to the peaceful condition in the Visayas.

The President congratulated Cols. Bondad and Fetalvero for their work. The President said, "You are doing a fine job and I hope that you will continue it."

President Magsaysay has prevailed upon Filemon C. Rodriguez, formerly chairman of the National Economic Council and general manager of the National Power Corporation, to serve in Malacañang as adviser to the President on economics and power development, Malacañang announced today.

Malacañang said that President Magsaysay, desirous of retaining Rodriguez's experience and talents in the public service, subsequently urged him to serve as Malacañang adviser on a P1-a-year basis. Rodriguez accepted.

Malacañang pointed out that under this arrangement, the people and the government would continue to avail themselves of Rodriguez's services without at the same time imposing unduly on his health.

January 3.—EARLY this morning, the President received the 18-man Philippine delegation to the ECAFE sub-committee conference to be held in Hongkong from January 6 to 12. The Philippine delegation called on the President prior to its departure for Hongkong.

The President instructed the Philippine delegation to help pave the way for mutual understanding among the member countries and to promote a more rapid development of trade relations between the Philippines and its neighbors.

Commerce Undersecretary Perfecto E. Laguio, head of the delegation, underscored the importance of the conference, saying that the participating countries would exchange information on their respective trade and commercial policies with a view to seeking an effective solution to their common economic problems. He assured the President that his delegation would do its best to work for favorable trade arrangements between the Philippines and other countries of Asia and the Far East.

Accompanied to Malacañang by Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, the delegation included Plant Industry Director Eugenio E. Cruz, who will represent the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Mario P. Marcos of the Central Bank, Capt. A. Mangila of the Department of Foreign Affairs, and Director Leon Ma. Gonzales of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.

The Philippine representation will be reinforced by representatives of three local business organizations; namely, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce, the Philippine Chamber of Industries, and the Philippine Chamber of Agriculture. These business representatives, who will form part of the delegation in an advisory capacity, will travel at their own expense.

The business group is composed of Dr. Manuel Lim, Dean Santiago F. de la Cruz, Crisanto M. Hizon, H. L. Nabong, Teofilo Tanjuatco, and Luis Ablaza, all of the Chamber of Commerce; and Roberto Villanueva, Leopoldo Rovira, Gaudencio Antonino, Eusebio Garcia, and Jovino Lorenzo, all of the Chamber of Industries.

Other callers this morning included acting Gov. Conrado Estrella of Pangasinan, who requested the release of funds for his province; Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez; and Reps. Vicente L. Peralta of Sorsogon, Constancio Castañeda of Tarlac, and Tobias Fornier of Antique.

The President left Malacañang in the afternoon, taking with him a pile of papers to work on.

Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro this day administered the oath of office to Mrs. Belen Zaballero de Pelejo as a member of the board of pharmaceutical examiners and Arsenio P. Luna as a member of the board of examiners for civil engineers.

Mrs. Pelejo is the president of the Women's Pharmaceutical Association and national treasurer of the League of Women Voters. Among those present at her induction were Mrs. Florencia Estrada, board secretary, and Mrs. Isabel Batallones, vice-president of the Women's Pharmaceutical Association.

Luna's oath-taking marked his re-appointment for another three-year term as a member of the board of examiners for civil engineers. He is currently the chief designing engineer in the Bureau of Public Highways. He was accompanied at the induction by his wife and his daughter Belen, Captain Andres O. Hizon, board chairman, and Juan J. Carlos, board member.

The establishment of an Institute of Asian Studies and an Asian House in the University of the Philippines was urged upon the president and the board of regents of the university in a directive issued today by President Magsaysay. This is another phase of the Administration's Asian relations program, which has been taking shape recently, of which the Magsaysay Asian Awards announced last December 30 is an important feature.

In his directive to the university authorities, President Magsaysay said it was his earnest desire "to see established in the University of the Philippines not later than the academic year 1955-1956, a center of Asian Studies that will make our highest institution of learning the common ground in which to bring together scholars and students in Asia to help develop among themselves a spirit of stronger kinship, mutual helpfulness, and solidarity, and to render the university fully fit to serve as a rallying point in the joint endeavors of all Asians to preserve and advance their common cultural heritage."

In urging early action on the project, President Magsaysay further declared that this was a "contribution towards Asian unity and towards achieving for Asia the position that it deserves in world affairs" which he believed the Philippines ought to make. He added it would "enable us to earn for ourselves the esteem and respect not only of our fellow Asians but also of the world at large." The President also envisioned the proposed Institute as attracting students and scholars of the West "to seek and share in our midst an increasing knowledge and wider appreciation of the cultural wealth of Asia."

The proposed Asian House will include not only an Asian library and an Asian Hall adequate for conferences, lectures, seminars, and programs on Asian topics but also dormitory facilities for the convenience of students from Asian countries who may avail themselves of scholarships offered by the state university and the government. Provision for the immediate construction of this building is being made by President Magsaysay so as to make it available as soon as possible.

In approving the twin projects as recommended by the Asian Good Neighbor Relations Commission, President Magsaysay authorized that body to undertake a survey of conditions in Asian countries and to establish relations with appropriate organizations with which it may secure cooperation and assistance in its undertaking. A distinguished educator and a high university authority are being groomed by the Commission to undertake this task.

January 4.—CONSTRUCTION of four bridges and seven stretches of concrete roads located in various parts of the country at a total estimated cost of P13,176,020 is earmarked for completion during the year 1955, according to a report submitted today to President Magsaysay by Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa.

Reporting on the progress of the five-year highway program launched recently by the Administration, Secretary Orosa said that work on these projects had already been started by private builders to whom the contracts had been awarded. He explained that the contract prices totalled only P8,575,479.05, as some building materials like cement and reinforcing steel would be furnished by the government. Orosa also reported that bids for seven additional road and bridge building projects would be advertised soon. Three of these projects are in Negros Occidental, two in Iloilo, one in Davao, and another one in Capiz, according to Orosa.

Secretary Orosa, during his call at Malacañang this morning, requested the release of P2,450,000 appropriated by law for the modernization and expansion of the facilities of the government telephone system. Orosa informed the President that he would need P500,000 to start this year the installation of automatic telephones to replace the outmoded ones currently in use.

Director Jose Alfonso of the Bureau of Telecommunications, who was with Orosa, said that there were more than 15,000 applications from residents of Manila and suburbs, now pending with the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company. Many thousands more would like to apply for office and home telephones, but they would not file applications knowing they could not be attended to owing to lack of facilities, Alfonso said.

Secretary Orosa also brought along Director Felipe Cuaderno of the Bureau of Posts, who recommended the creation of a division of international postal service in his bureau. Cuaderno said that the Philippines had as yet no mail agreements with other countries and that all packages and letters destined for, or received from, abroad still had to be coursed through the United States. He explained that the proposed division would take care of entering into postal agreements with foreign countries and also would make possible a more efficient and careful handling of foreign mail matters.

The President instructed Secretary Orosa to bring these proposals up at the Cabinet meeting tomorrow morning.

Earlier this morning, the President received Economic Coordination Administrator Alfredo Montelibano, who recommended the sale to the public of part of the stocks held by the government in PAL. The government now holds 54 per cent of PAL stocks. Montelibano recommended, in line with the Administration's policy of giving way to private interests on business enterprises, that the government sell part of its holdings and retain a total of only 34 per cent of the company's stocks, thus relinquishing its control over the firm to private entities.

The Chief Executive told Montelibano that he would take up his proposal with the Council of Leaders.

About 11:30 a.m., the President received Manager Manuel Mañosa of the Metropolitan Water District, who reported that the installation of a 48-inch water main, six kilometers long, at España extension had been completed. The project which took two years and P3,400,000 to build, will boost the low water pressure in Tondo, Caloocan, Malabon, and Grace Park during the summer months.

A delegation of 200 farmers from Bayambang, Pangasinan, protested against their town officials who allegedly were trying to eject them from public lands they had been working on. The farmers informed the President that the land consisting of some 2,000 hectares had been leased by the municipality to a private person as a fish pond and that water had receded from most of the area since the contract of lease had been drawn and that the lessee was now importing tenants from other provinces to work on the land which had become agricultural land, driving away its present workers.

The President ordered an immediate resurvey of the area to determine which portions were suitable for fishery and which for agricultural purposes. He ordered the town mayor to give present tenants priority in working on the land.

The farmers had arrived in Manila yesterday afternoon in eight trucks bringing along their own food supplies that would last them several days. On being told that the President was out of town, the farmers replied that they would wait for his return and that they would not return to their homes until they had seen the President.

The Chief Executive was told of the farmers' plight this noon. He had them gather at the Malacañang grounds and he went down to meet them. Among the group were nursing mothers who had brought along their babies.

Other callers this morning included Gov. Manuel Solidum of Romblon, Rep. Felipe Abeleda of Mindoro Occidental, Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevosio, and Board Chairman Dindo Gonzalez of the sweepstakes office.

The President in the morning discussed again with Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona the budget estimates submitted by the different executive departments for, the next fiscal year, whittling them down further wherever necessary. The President went over the various estimates carefully, trimming further proposed expenditures by eliminating non-essential services and personnel.

The original total of the budgetary estimates submitted to the President was around P800 million. While the exact figures of the whittled-down budget were not as yet available, Press Secretary J. V. Cruz said Tuesday that the final budget to be submitted to Congress by the President will be much lower than what was originally conceived.

The President has not yet finished his study of the budget and will confer again with the budget commissioner soon.

President Magsaysay also directed Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol to extend Army protection to the Payao-Kabasalan residents in Zamboanga who had been reportedly attacked by Sulu bandits Monday. The President issued the directive upon receipt of a telegram from Rafael Climaco in Zamboanga reporting the attack. It was reported that the peace officers of Zamboanga and Basilan had been alerted against the Sulu pirates since Sunday. It was further reported that the attack on Payao resulted in several casualties. No details were available.

The President also directed Crisol to alert the Constabulary in La Carlota, Negros Occidental, in view of the reported tense situation in the Ma-ao Sugar Central. Abundio Huelar, in a telegram sent to the President, reported an impending strike and the danger of bloodshed in the central due to alleged discrimination against NOFOC union members.

The President gave these directive to Crisol in the course of the latter's call on the Chief Executive during which matters regarding the Defense Department were taken up. Crisol immediately implemented the President's directives.

January 5.—IN a breakfast conference this morning with Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona and Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff, the President decided to cut down the Armed Forces' estimates of its share in the new budget. The President, who had announced a policy of austerity, whipped the Armed Forces into line in an effort to trim down its budget allocations.

After the breakfast conference, the President received several callers, including Sen. Tomas Cabili, Gov. Alejo Santos of Bulacan, and Rep. Aldeguer of Iloilo.

About 10 a.m., the President presided over the regular weekly Cabinet meeting, the first to be held in 1955, which lasted until 12.30 p.m.

The Cabinet today authorized Economic Coordinator Alfredo Montelibano and the Manila Railroad Company to enter into negotiations with two American firms for the acquisition of 40 diesel electric locomotives to usher in the complete dieselization of the railway system. The 40 locomotives will consist of 10 yard switchers, 400 to 500 horsepower; 10 streamliners, 1,000 h.p.; and 20 road switchers, 1,000 h.p. They will cost approximately P5,000,000.

Under the financing plan proposed by the MRR, the company will pay 20 per cent down and the balance in seven to 10 years in equal installments. It said it can meet the down payment of \$1,000,000 from the P2,500,000 appropriation previously earmarked under Republic Acts Nos. 1071 and 1078 for the acquisition of eight diesel electric locomotives. It will obtain the annual amortizations from savings to be realized from the operation of diesel

engines as against steam locomotives. These savings, according to estimates, will amount to P40,000 per car a year or a total of P1,600,000 a year.

The Cabinet authorized the opening of negotiations on these terms with the General Electric (P. I.), Inc., and the General Motors Overseas Operations. The MRR hopes to have the new locomotives in Manila by October this year.

During the Cabinet meeting, the President was advised by a two-man Cabinet committee he had created to determine whether the current maritime strike should be certified for judicial arbitration that they will submit their report and recommendations to him early next week.

Secretaries Eleuterio Adevos of labor and Pedro Tuason of justice reported at the Cabinet meeting, when asked by the Chief Executive about the progress of their inquiry, that they had given the parties affected by the strike up to Saturday, January 8, within which to submit their memoranda on the question of certification. The two Cabinet men said they would then study the memoranda and submit their report and recommendations.

Other Cabinet meeting developments were:

(1) The President, with the concurrence of the Cabinet, extended the carabao slaughter ban for another year after its scheduled expiration on January 31. The extended ban will be on exactly the same terms and conditions.

(2) The Cabinet allocated to the Immigration Commission a government lot behind the Central Bank building to serve as site for a projected building to house the commission. The building will be financed either out of a proposed appropriation in the next public works bill or by an RFC loan. The lot was being negotiated for by some private associations, but the Cabinet decided to allocate it to the Bureau of Immigration on the ground that essential governmental needs must prevail over private purposes. It was pointed out that the Bureau of Immigration needed presentable quarters since this is one office invariably visited by tourists and foreign visitors. The Bureau at present is housed in the ruins of the old University of the Philippines engineering building on Padre Faura Street.

(3) The Cabinet flashed the green light for immediate implementation of the P2,500,000 program for improvement of the government telecommunications system and its conversion to automatic system. Financing of the program was authorized under the bond issue. A total of P500,000 will be released for this year.

(4) The Cabinet approved a proposal of the Ledesma Shipping Lines to operate a ferry line between Manila and Cavite as well as trips to Corregidor and Bataan. The President said this proposal represent "a great service to the public."

(5) Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently secretary of foreign affairs, reported to the President in the course of the Cabinet meeting that Foreign Minister George Yeh of Nationalist China was scheduled to arrive in Manila on January 13 for a brief visit. Garcia said that Yeh, who had been in Washington negotiating a mutual defense treaty between his country and the United States, was returning home from this mission and had expressed the desire to take advantage of his stop-over in Manila to pay his respects to President Magsaysay and other Filipino officials as well as to discuss with them various matters of mutual interest and concern to the two countries.

Foreign capitalists are enthusiastic to invest in the Philippines in view of general recognition by business circles abroad that this country could become the trade center in the Far East because of its strategic location and potential resources. This was the observation of the special presidential mission which called on the President this noon to submit a preliminary report on their survey, undertaken at their own expense, which took them to various industrial American cities.

The mission reported, however, that foreign investors had expressed apprehension over tight restrictions on remittances abroad of business profits and over congressional sentiment to nationalize local trades. The group pointed out that there were about 41 nationalization bills presented in Congress during the last session although only one was finally passed.

Gov. Miguel Cuaderno of the Central Bank, a member of the mission, informed the President that he had been able to arrange for a \$75-million loan from American banks to finance development projects here. He also reported that 15 big foreign firms, involving a total of \$100 million in capital, had signified their intentions to put up factories in this country.

To encourage foreign investors, the mission recommended that the government set up a study of all basic industries and resources and have this data published in a comprehensive brochure for distribution through Philippine consulates and embassies abroad. Foreign capitalists desiring to come here are often handicapped by their lack of knowledge of this country and its potentialities, the missionaries said.

They suggested the maintenance of a permanent presidential mission to stir up interest and enthusiasm for this country among foreign business circles and to be on the spot to provide all the necessary information required by these investors. They said that the Dutch, Canadian, Porto Rican, and Turkish governments maintain such missions in key business cities in the United States. The missionaries also suggested that all efforts should be made to protect both foreign and local investors alike. They said that unfavorable regulations here were often the main reason given to them by American businessmen for their refusal to come to the Philippines.

Created last July 14 under Administrative Order No. 47, the special mission left for the United States last September to study possibilities of foreign capitalists' investing in this country. The mission, composed mostly of local businessmen, was sent abroad at no cost to the government, as its members paid their own way.

Under the administrative order, the mission's duty was to contact persons and firms inclined to foreign investments, convince them of opportunities and advantages in the Philippines, obtain commitments from them as to amount of investments, get a cross-section of their requirements, and assure them of incentives, government protection, understanding, and fair treatment should they decide to come to this country.

The President signed today Proclamation No. 104, designating February 14 to March 31, 1955, as the period for the eighth annual fund campaign of the Philippine National Red Cross and urging all citizens and civic-spirited associations and organizations to "contribute generously to help realize the aims and purposes of the PNRC." The proclamation authorized all national, provincial, city, and municipal government officials and school authorities to accept fund-raising responsibilities and to take initiative and active leadership in their respective communities.

Malacañang this day released Executive Order No. 81, effective January 1, 1955, reducing and setting up new ceiling prices for wholesale and retail sale of rice.

The new directive fixes the price ceilings of rice as follows:

	Wholesale per ganta	Retail per ganta
Macan, 2nd class	P0.80	P0.85
Macan, 1st class	0.85	0.90
Elon-Elon or Raminad	0.95	1.00
Wag-Wag	1.05	1.10

In the afternoon, the President left the Palace and returned at 8 o'clock at night. He was accompanied by his aide, Maj. Pat Garcia.

January 6.—INCENSED by reports that Agustin Banzon, his brother-in-law, had created a "show" at the Philippine National Bank, the President immediately addressed a letter to PNB President Arsenio Jison to investigate Banzon.

In ordering the investigation and Banzon's dismissal "if the circumstances so warrant," the President reiterated the "basic promise I made to the electorate . . . that I will never countenance preferences or privileges of any kind for any of my relatives. It is precisely because of this that I am now deeply concerned."

The President acted swiftly in the wake of press reports that his brother-in-law had denounced the PNB directors as a "do-nothing group" who were merely "fattening their bellies."

It was reported that Banzon flared up against the Bank director's after they had failed to act on his proposal to raise the classification of his department from Class "C" to Class "B". The reports stated that one of the directors, Francisco Ortigas, Jr., had submitted his resignation as a result of the incident but that Malacañang had prevailed upon Ortigas to withdraw his resignation.

The reports also stated that Banzon had apologized and that the board had accepted his apology and considered the matter closed.

After sending his directive to Jison, the President received Richard W. Pockmire, local manager of the Goodyear Tires and Rubber Company, who informed the Chief Executive of the desire of his firm to put up a tire plant in the Philippines. In response, the President reiterated his policy of encouraging the flow of foreign capital to this country to bolster the national economy and relieve the grave unemployment problem.

Pockmire was accompanied to Malacañang by Charles W. Newmen, Norman Gray, Len Duncan, and Roberto A. Barretto, all of the Goodyear Tire Company.

The President this morning ordered Assistant Executive Secretary Mariano Yenka to rush relief to the typhoon-stricken provinces in the Visayas. Secretary Yenka promptly got in touch with the Social Welfare Administration, the Philippine National Red Cross, and the Air Force to coordinate efforts to provide typhoon sufferers with immediate relief. The President's order was given during the call about 10 a.m. of Sen. Ruperto Kangleon, Rep. Alberto T. Aguja, and Gov. Bernardo Torres, who apprised the Chief Executive of the extent of damages wrought by the last typhoon in their province. During this call, Graciano Capili was inducted mayor of St. Bernard, a newly-created municipality in Leyte.

The President was also shown a miniature model of a one-room barrio schoolhouse which Leyte Engineer Armando Guevarra said he could mass-produce at P2,350 per unit, the same price as that of the AFP engineer corps' pre-fabricated schoolbuilding. The Chief Executive referred Guevarra to Col. Antonio Chanco of the engineer corps.

John T. Cooper, Jr., manager of the U.S. Veterans Administration in Manila, called to discuss plans on the operation of the P10-million veterans hospital being constructed in Quezon City. Cooper was accompanied by Thomas Lee, USVA's legal adviser.

Dr. Frank Fremont Smith and Dr. John R. Rees, president and director, respectively, of the World Federation of Mental Health Associations, called to pay their respects following their recent arrival here. They were accompanied by Prof. Carl Bowman of the Rockefeller Foundation.

Prof. Bowman, who is on a six-month tour of duty with the U. P., proposed the creation of psychiatric wards in the Philippine General Hospital and at the V. Luna Hospital for the treatment of civilian and military patients. He said that psychiatric cases, like tuberculosis, could be remedied easier at their early stages. Prof. Bowman also proposed the establishment of a psychiatric training program for medical interns. He said that the proposed wards could be utilized for the training of student psychiatrists. Also with the group were Health Secretary Paulino Garcia, Director Jose Fernandez of the National Psychopathic Hospital, and Aldaba-Lim of the Philippine Mental Health Association.

A reorganization of the Bureau of Civil Service towards more efficient management, better preparation and administration of examinations, faster approval of appointments, and more systematic keeping of records were

among the major changes recommended by the presidential committee on civil service in its report to the Chief Executive.

With regard to the proposed changes in the preparation and administration of examinations, the committee proposed that essay type examinations be replaced by objective examinations of high reliability, selectivity, and validity. As planned, examination results would be released within 30 days from the time of administration.

Regarding speedier action on appointments, the committee recommended that appointments should be dispatched within 72 hours.

The presidential committee created six months ago by Administrative Order No. 39 cited in its report to the President the following achievements:

- (1) Preparation of a revised civil service law which requires the Bureau of Civil Service to delegate to the other government agencies the power and responsibility for personnel management, subject to policies and standards set by the commission;
- (2) Establishment of examining units on a subject matter basis and of a unit to undertake research in test development;
- (3) Clearing a backlog of some 50,000 appointments, some of which had been pending for more than two years;
- (4) Recommended the creation of a personnel services division which will provide for employees health, recreation and welfare programs, in-service training, merit and award, guidance and counseling systems; and,
- (5) Segregation of personnel records and their systematic arrangement by agency.

The President's committee on civil service is composed of Dominador R. Aytona, commissioner of the budget, chairman; Jesus G. Barrera, undersecretary of justice; and Amado del Rosario, acting commissioner of civil service, members. Tomas W. Flores, administrative officer of the Wage and Position Classification Office, acts as executive director, and Charles J. Nelson, FOA official, as consultant.

Officers of the Public School Teachers' Association headed by Marcelino Bautista, executive secretary-treasurer, sought the implementation of Republic Act No. 842, which provides adjustments and increases in salaries for public school teachers.

Other callers included Reps. Jose Corpuz of Nueva Ecija, Joaquin Roces of Manila, Wenceslao Lagumbay of Laguna, Pedro Lopez of Cebu, and Guillermo Sanchez of Agusan; Governors Sergio Osmeña, Jr., of Cebu, and Dominador Chipeco of Laguna; and mayors of nearby municipalities who consulted the President on pressing problems in their localities.

The President today instructed Secretary of Justice Pedro Tuason to study the legal implications of the action of suspended Cavite Governor Dominador Camerino in filing his certificate of candidacy for senator in next November's election. The Chief Executive specifically asked his chief legal adviser to determine what effects, if any, Camerino's action has on his continuation in office as Cavite governor.

Camerino, who is facing administrative charges, had previously offered to resign. Malacañang rejected his proffered resignation, however, pointing out that sound public policy precluded the acceptance of any offer to resign by officials facing administrative charges, since this would be equivalent to permitting them to take themselves out of the reach of administrative investigators.

The President this morning congratulated Teniente del Barrio Felipe Enriquez of barrio Payapa, Lemery, Batangas, whose cooperation with civilians and men of the 7th BCT resulted in the killing of three ranking Huk leaders in his

barrio last December 22. Enriquez was accompanied to Malacañang by Col. Napoleon D. Valeriano, who had fetched him by transport helicopter early this morning from Lemery, Batangas, together with Lt. Col. Laureano Maraña, commanding officer of the 7th BCT, and Capt. Roberto Belen, leader of Psycho War Team No. 2 of GHQ attached to the 7th BCT.

According to Col. Valeriano, as a result of the cooperation of Enriquez, 15 men of the 7th BCT armed only with bolos and knives succeeded in killing three Huk commanders; namely, Berlin, Benito, and Efren. The killing of these three ranking Huks in that area has contributed to the further improvement of the peace' and order situation.

The President was pleased with the work of Barrio Lieutenant Enriquez and granted immediately his request for the release of funds to construct a Liberty well in his barrio. The President also congratulated Col. Maraña and Capt. Belen for their leadership and directed that the 15 persons who had participation in the killing of the Huks be rewarded in cash according to standard practice of the Army.

Valeriano said that three months ago, the 7th BCT command had extended its territory from Cavite to four-fifths of Batangas province, including barrio Payapa of Lemery, Batangas. He said that the 7th BCT had intensified its peace-and-order campaign resulting in, among other achievements, the killing of the three Huk commanders in that sector.

The President today signed Executive Order No. 87, creating a commission for the development and maintenance of Corregidor and Bataan as National shrines.

The new commission will be composed of the secretary of national defense, chairman; the secretary of agriculture and natural resources and the secretary of commerce and industry, vice-chairmen; and the secretary of public works and communications, the chief of staff of the AFP, the civil aeronautics administrator, the president of the Philippine Association, the president of the Philippine Tourist and Travel Association, the national commander of the USAFFE Legion, the supreme councilor of the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, and the chairman of the Historical Markers Committee, members.

January 7.—A breakfast-conference between President Magsaysay and congressional leaders today, commended the efforts of the Administration to improve socio-economic conditions in Sulu and other parts of Mindanao and thus bring that region closer to complete peace and order.

The conference heard Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff, report on the progress of the work of the presidential action committee for Sulu affairs (PACSUA). The President and the congressional leaders then agreed that these efforts be stepped up to wipe out some of the conditions which have contributed to lawlessness and banditry in Sulu province and other parts of Mindanao.

Present at the conference, besides President Magsaysay, Vargas, and Puyat, were Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr.; Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez; Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr.; Speaker Pro-tempore Daniel Romualdez; Majority Floor Leader Arturo M. Tolentino; and Reps. Domocao Alonto and Luminog Mangelen.

Gen. Vargas reported that the bulk of the Armed Forces troops in Sulu and other Mindanao provinces were currently engaged in extending assistance to the PACSUA, a presidential body representing various governmental agencies created to coordinate socio-economic reform efforts in Mindanao. Vargas said the troops were providing security to public works gangs, building roads, drilling wells, and assisting in the operation of mobile health units. The Armed Forces chief added that the PACSUA, chaired by Sulu Governor Leon Fernandez and vice-chaired by the AFP civil affairs chief, Col. Nicanor Jimenez, was vigorously implementing the President's directive to introduce socio-economic reforms in Sulu.

The conference expressed gratification over the work of the PACSUA and hoped that its pace will be accelerated in order to eliminate within the shortest possible time some of the factors that have contributed to lawlessness in Mindanao.

Rep. Alonto, chairman of the House special committee on Mindanao and Sulu, in this connection advised the conference that he had received reliable information that Moro bandit Kamlon was disposed to surrender unconditionally to the government. He added he had been told that the Moro outlaw wished to give himself up to Speaker Laurel.

The conference expressed the opinion that it was preposterous and presumptuous for Kamlon to demand that his surrender be accepted by no less than the number four man in the country. President Magsaysay and the congressional leaders reiterated the standing government policy of accepting nothing less than Kamlon's unconditional surrender. They said he could always give himself up to the nearest Armed Forces officer or competent civilian authority.

Other conference developments:

(1) It was agreed to create a joint executive-legislative committee to study the effects of the retail trade nationalization law and recommend future policy on the question of nationalization.

(2) Sen. Gil J. Puyat reported on the work of the Philippine mission on revision of the Bell Trade act.

(3) The conference finally decided to coordinate the efforts of various legislators preparing bills to encourage and protect foreign and local investments in the Philippines. Puyat, Pelaez, and Rep. Jacobo Gonzales were mentioned among those preparing such bills.

Following the conference, the President administered the oath of office to Jaime Aglore as second assistant fiscal of Quezon City. Then he had another conference with Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro on routine pending matters.

The President signed the appointments of Macapandi Padate as justice of the peace of Kapatagan and Lala, Cotabato, and of Francisco Abalos as justice of the peace of Ganassi, Pualas, and Nonoñgan, municipal districts in Lanao.

This noon the President sent an Army investigator to Bogu, Misamis Oriental, to look into the case of striking employees of the Philippine Packing Corporation who allegedly were resorting to violence, coercion, and intimidation to enforce their demands. The President's action was prompted by alleged indifference of Constabulary and police units to maintain order in the area. The strikers were reported to have broken windows and destroyed other properties of the pineapple cannery without any intervention from the local police.

The Chief Executive ordered Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, who is scheduled to leave by plane for Sulu tomorrow, to take along with him a reliable Army officer who could be left at Bogu to investigate the month-old strike.

Calvin C. Crawford, the firm's manager who called at Malacañang this morning, said that about 90 per cent of his employees had already returned to work. The remaining small group of strikers maintained violent picket lines with the aid of outsiders, Calvin informed the President.

The President today instructed Justice Secretary Pedro A. Tuason to look into the allegation that the two incumbent members of the Commission on Elections were holding their positions illegally. Malacañang was also checking a report that Commissioner Rodrigo Perez, one of those whose qualification to remain in office was being challenged, had received a new appointment from then President Quirino.

Rep. Augusto Francisco of Manila has claimed that Perez and Chairman Domingo Imperial of the Electoral Commission had been originally appointed to fill the unexpired terms of Commissioner Francisco Enaje and the late Chairman Vicente de Vera, respectively. He alleged that Perez's term ended in 1951 and Imperial's, in July last year.

In the evening, the President directed Justice Secretary Tuason to hurry up the investigations of graft and corruption cases which had been ordered by the Chief Executive so that court action could be taken on them if the circumstances warrant. The President gave this directive in the presence of newspaperman with whom he had an impromptu conference.

Several investigations had been launched in the past year, led off by the Caledonia pile case. The President said that while he wanted speedy action to be taken on all these investigations so that the guilty parties might be punished and the innocent ones cleared, yet democratic processes should be observed. He directed the justice secretary to have all the government officials working on these investigations speed up their work and, if necessary, work overtime on them and report the results to him.

In the course of his interview with newspapermen, the President's attention was called by Mrs. Sinforosa Benedicto of Tacloban, Leyte, who complained to the President of alleged official indifference to her legitimate requests for government assistance. Mrs. Benedicto informed the President that she had asked the help of the veterinarian in Tacloban named Dr. Tolentino to help cure her three sick carabaos. Owing to neglect, her carabaos had died, she said. She also reported that she had asked the Bureau of Plant Industry official in her town for corn and peanut seedlings to plant in her farm. Again, she said, she was not given help.

President Magsaysay got hold of the telephone and directed Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta to wire immediately the officials concerned in Tacloban and find out why Mrs. Benedicto's requests for government help were not attended to satisfactorily. He told Secretary Araneta that, if it could be shown that the officials complained against had been negligent in the performance of their duties, drastic action should be taken against him.

The President's attention was also called to the case of Jose Martinez of Merida, Leyte, who had brought about 2,000 cavans of palay to be sold to the NARIC branch in Cebu but was turned away for lack of funds, and, consequently, had to sell his palay to the Chinese merchants. The President instructed by telephone NARIC General Manager Juan O. Chioco to wire the NARIC manager in Cebu and ask why he had not purchased the palay of Mr. Martinez.

The President was very much impressed by further reports on the effectiveness of the Margate system of planting rice initiated in the country by Eugenio Margate of Dipolog, Zamboanga. Under this scientific method of planting, a hectare of land will yield more than 100 cavans. The President indicated that he was going to appoint Margate as a technical assistant in the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources with the duty of teaching farmers in the different provinces the Margate method. It was proposed that Margate hold a seminar first in Nueva Ecija, which is the premier rice province of the Philippines.

The President also said the book written by Margate, entitled *How to Cultivate Rice in the Margate System*, should be translated into the various dialects for public dissemination.

January 8.—THE President had an early breakfast with Mrs. Magsaysay this morning. After the breakfast, he conferred with Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro and other Malacañang assistants on state papers.

The President this morning received from President Eisenhower a cable thanking the former for his holiday greetings. In his cable to President Magsaysay, President Eisenhower said: "Your Excellency's thoughtful holiday greetings are deeply appreciated and I am happy to extend to Your Excellency my best wishes for the coming year."

The President received a similar message from Prime Minister Louie St. Laurent of Canada. He also received from Dr. Ba U, President of the Union of Burma, a cable expressing his thanks for President Magsaysay's greetings on the 7th anniversary of Burma's independence.

At 9 a.m., the President and Mrs. Magsaysay accompanied by Jesus Magsaysay, Mayor Sixto Cacho of Castillejos, and Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo, motored to the Nichols airbase where they took a plane for San Marcelino, Zambales, arriving there at 10:20 a.m. From San Marcelino, they motored to the house of the President's parents, Mr. and Mrs.

Exequiel Magsaysay, in barrio Bareng, Castillejos, arriving there at 10:45 a.m. The President and the First Lady enjoyed a luncheon of native dishes with the President's parents. They returned to Malacañang at 3:20 p.m.

In the interest of further promoting a more intimate understanding of the aims and aspirations of the Philippines through the Asian Good Neighbor Relations Commission, the President this day signed Executive Order No. 89, redesignating Executive Vice-Chairman Modesto Farolan as the commission's vice-chairman and naming Juan C. Orendain as executive secretary. Oscar Arellano also was named additional member of the commission.

The commission was created last September by the President under Executive Order No. 70, with the specific task of adopting measures and undertaking practical projects for bringing about closer good neighbor relations and more effective cooperation among Asian peoples.

The members of the reorganized commission are: Dr. Mariano de los Santos, chairman; Modesto Farolan, vice-chairman; Juan C. Orendain, executive secretary; Professor Nicholas Zafra, Joaquin Roces, Eugenio Puyat, Felino Neri, Helen Z. Benitez, Tarhata Kiram-Salvador, Claudio Teehankee, and Oscar Arellano, members.

Malacañang announced today that preliminary investigation of an alleged attack by 7th BCT troopers on barrio Salawag, Dasmariñas, Cavite, has yielded strong indications that the attackers were not troopers of the 7th BCT. The incident Tuesday night had resulted in the slaying of a woman and the wounding of two men. The report reached President Magsaysay soon afterwards and he ordered immediate investigation of the case.

According to a preliminary report submitted to the President, the evidence so far unearthed showed that no 7th BCT troopers were at the barrio during the time of the attack. Investigators were still trying to determine whether the attackers had disguised themselves as soldiers or had come from other Army units.

The President said he had directed PCAC Chairman Manuel P. Manahan and Col. Napoleon D. Valeriano, his chief aide-de-camp and former commander of the 7th BCT, to press the inquiry. He also instructed Manahan to extend relief and assistance to the victims and their relatives.

In the evening, the President directed Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa and Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona to release in full the highway funds and public works funds corresponding to the areas affected recently by typhoon *Violet*. The President also told Secretary Orosa to instruct all district engineers of the affected areas to submit without delay the itemized destruction suffered by their respective provinces so that additional funds might be released as necessary.

This action of the President followed a previous directive to the social welfare administrator to extend relief to the stricken areas and the Armed Forces of the Philippines to help in the reconstruction work. President Magsaysay issued these directives as he continuously received telegrams from the ravage areas informing him of the destruction left by typhoon *Violet*. Among the officials who have requested help for their regions were Gov. Gedeon Quijano of Misamis Occidental, Gov. Vicente B. de Lara of Misamis Oriental, Gov. Francisco Infantado of Mindoro Oriental, and Mayor Perdices of Dumaguete city.

The Chief Executive also directed Agricultural Secretary Salvador Araneta to alert his men in Catbalogan, Samar, to arrest the reported widespread infestation caused by rice stem borers and army worms in the newly planted rice fields in the entire northern part of the province. Gov. Decoroso Rosales of Samar, who informed the President by telegram of the infestation, further requested the shipment of 250 gallons of Endrine to help combat the worms.

In the evening, the President received Francis Cardinal Spellman, who was the President's guest for the night. The Cardinal arrived at Malacañang at exactly 8 p.m. accompanied by Apostolic Nuncio Egidio Vagnozzi, Manila Archbishop Rufino J. Santos, and Capt. Agerico Palaypay who was assigned aide to the visiting prelate.

After a brief rest, the Cardinal was honored with a family dinner by the President at the Palace.

January 9.—PRESIDENT and Mrs. Magsaysay heard a special mass said by visiting Francis Cardinal Spellman at the Malacañang chapel. After the mass the Chief Executive had breakfast with Cardinal Spellman who later left Malacañang for the American Embassy, where he will stay for the duration of his Philippine visit as a personal guest of U. S. Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance.

After breakfast, the President repaired to his room where he pored over official papers including the NBI report on the allegation of bribery in connection with the reparations problem. The President returned this report to the NBI to accelerate the investigation. It was understood that this investigation had not been prosecuted further “because the testimony was inherently improbable in nature.” The President declined to be quoted in connection with the case but, according to an official spokesman, the President appeared inclined to consider the allegations weak. NBI Director Jose Lukban also refused comment, other than to say that he had felt the case did not merit further costly effort, since it seemed unlikely to produce conclusive evidence against other than small members of the underworld.

Notwithstanding all this, the spokesman said, the President today expressed the wish that the investigation be pushed through and terminated as early as possible in order that definitive conclusions may be reached once and for all the guilty, if any, exposed and prosecuted; and the innocent cleared of all malicious imputations arising from rumors and speculations.

President Magsaysay today directed Technical Assistant Sofronio Quimson to review all appointments to provincial governorship made by the Administration with a view to insuring that all permanent vacancies for provincial governor are filled by persons belonging to the same party as their respective elective predecessors. The President laid down this order after his attention was called to the fact that in Romblon, a Nacionalista was named acting provincial governor notwithstanding the fact that the elective Liberal governor whom he succeeded had vacated the office permanently.

The President, who had been given the impression that the vacancy was only temporary and therefore he had discretion in the choice of an acting governor, directed Quimson to pull out the Nacionalista incumbent immediately and have him replaced by a Liberal. He instructed Quimson to ask the Liberal Party to nominate five candidates for the position.

The President was told that the Romblon case was pending decision before the Supreme Court, with the Liberals having challenged the right of the appointive Nacionalista acting governor to stay in office. This was the reason, he was told, the incumbency of the Nacionalista appointee had not been disturbed.

The President angrily said such an action would never have been initiated before the Supreme Court had he been told from the very beginning that the vacancy left behind by the elective Liberal governor was of a permanent nature. Pointing out that the law was clear in such cases, he said a Liberal would have been immediately named to succeed him. The President told Quimson to take corrective measures immediately.

“I want the law complied with to the letter,” he said. “I do not want politics to be injected into these things.”

In the wake of developments, the Chief Executive also ordered a general review of other appointments to provincial governorship extended by the Administration to insure that they are all in accordance with the law. The President told Quimson, among other things, to transmit to Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason his desire to expedite the legal opinion on the case of suspended Cavite Governor Dominador M. Camerino.

Gov. Camerino has filed his certificate of candidacy for senator in the coming November election, resulting, according to the Liberals, in his automatic resignation from the office of governor. The Liberals claim that, in view of this circumstance and that under the law, a Liberal should now be appointed to succeed Camerino.

After seeing Quimson and Press Secretary J. V. Cruz, the Chief Executive left Malacañang for an undisclosed place, taking with him papers requiring immediate action on which he worked the whole day without interruption. The President returned to Malacañang at 6 p.m.

January 10.—THE country, starting today up to January 15, will observe “Tax Information Week” as set by President Magsaysay in Proclamation No. 106. The proclamation said “national revenues can be increased only by popular endorsement and support of tax measures promoted on a nationwide scale by a government-citizen-initiated campaign of tax information and education directed to people in all social levels.”

The President received this day a resolution of congratulations from the provincial board of La Union “for having successfully and efficiently guided the ship of state during the first year of your Administration. The resolution was handed to the President by Gov. Juan Carbonell.

The resolution said that the President had fulfilled his pledge to “establish for our people a government based upon honesty and morality, a government sensitive to the people’s needs and dedicated to their best interest.” According to the resolution, the President had successfully extended the protection of the law to everyone, fairly and impartially—“to the rich and the poor, recognizing no party but the nation.” The members of the provincial board further expressed in the resolution their full and unrestrained cooperation in the fulfillment of the President’s program.

Sen. Justiniano S. Montano during his call this morning denied before the President that a man had been kidnapped and that a woman had been raped in Cavite City as reported in the metropolitan newspapers. Sen. Montano, who said the report was groundless, came to Malacañang with Mayor Isaac Tolentino of Tagaytay City, who paid a courtesy call on the President.

The Chief Executive received this morning the report of Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta on inventories made of the country’s natural resources; namely, animals, fisheries, forest, lands, and minerals. The report estimated the aggregate actual value of these resources at P35,678,735,000 and their aggregate potential value at P79,785,876,000.

The President this morning received callers up to 1 p.m.

A number of solons and provincial governors sought national aid for their provinces which had been devastated by recent destructive typhoons. They informed the President that most of their roads had been rendered impassable and their bridges, including those made of steel and with concrete posts, had been blown down or washed away.

The group included Reps. Pedro Trono of Iloilo, Alberto Ubay of Zamboanga del Norte, Jose Puey of Negros Occidental, Francisco M. Pajao of Leyte, and Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz, and Govs. Felipe B. Azcuna of Zamboanga del Norte and Federico Castillo of Mindoro Occidental.

Rep. Felipe Garduque accompanied Mayor Delfin Liban of Gattaran, Cagayan, who requested financial assistance for public improvements in his town. Rep. Wenceslao Lagumbay also brought along a ladies’ delegation from Cavinti and Luisiana, Laguna, who asked help for the construction of puericulture centers.

George A. Malcolm, former justice of the Philippine Supreme Court and founder of the College of Law of the University of the Philippines, informed the President that he was writing his memoirs and that he would like to include in his book short sketches of Philippine presidents. Accompanied to Malacañang by Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, Justice Malcolm requested President Magsaysay a brief biographical data and a photograph he could use in his book.

In the course of his call, the retired Justice expressed an opinion against the move to hold a constitutional convention for the purpose of amending the Philippine Constitution and setting up a parliamentary form of government. He said that a constitutional convention would be a luxury which Filipinos could ill afford at this time and that a parliamentary form of government would not work here, as it is not suitable to the temper of the people.

“If the parliamentary form were adopted here, the Philippines would be like France which has no stable government,” Justice Malcolm said

Whitney Gilliland, chairman of the U. S. Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, called to pay his respects following his recent arrival here. He was accompanied to Malacañang by Thomas C. Fisher, head of the Commissions office in Manila, and by Richard Ely of the U.S. Embassy.

A large delegation composed of municipal and provincial officials from Bulacan solicited financial aid for several municipalities in their province. The group was headed by Gov. Alejo Santos and Reps. Rogaciano Mercado and Erasmo Cruz.

The President received representatives of two more American companies who called at Malacañang this noon to discuss plans of their respective firms to set up factories in the Philippines.

R. V. Farrell, vice-president of the Union Carbide (International Division) Co. of New York, informed the President that his company was ready to start the construction of a \$5-million *Eveready* battery plant on an 18,000 square meter lot on Highway 54 in Quezon City. Accompanied by K. R. Michelson, head of the firm's local agency, and by Judge Guillermo Guevara, Farrell told the President that the projected plant would be one of the largest and most modern in the Orient and would probably start with 700 workers.

Robert Bendheim, vice-president of the M. Lowenstein & Sons, Inc., of New York, also signified the desire of his company to put up a textile mill here, with a capitalization of \$3 million to start with. Accompanied to Malacañang by Joseph Vasques, assistant vice-president, and Gilbert Zuellig, Bendheim however sought tax exemption privileges for the first five or 10 years of operation in order to give his proposed mill an opportunity to develop and expand its facilities.

The President, who placed the request under advisement, was gratified to learn of the plans of the two companies to establish subsidiary plants in this country. Aside from conserving the nation's limited dollar reserves, these new industries will also mean more employment for our people, he said.

In the afternoon, the President inquired from Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno why the monetary board had ordered the decontrol of the importation of wheat flour. The President made this inquiry over the telephone following a petition submitted to him by the board of directors of the Filipino Flour Importers Association, headed by E. V. Mendoza, who complained that the "decontrol will ruin Filipino flour dealers who will be eliminated by aliens from the flour trade because they cannot compete against aliens with their unlimited capital."

Governor Cuaderno informed the President that the monetary board would issue a statement on the matter after holding its meeting the next morning (January 11) at 10 o'clock.

The President in the afternoon also directed Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez and Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona to study ways and means of including in the budget to be submitted to Congress the amount needed to pay, in full or in part, the adjustment of salaries of school teachers pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 482. The President has been receiving thousands of telegrams and letters from teachers all over the country requesting the inclusion in the budget of the amount needed to pay their salary differentials.

It is estimated that the teachers' salary differentials will amount to some P17 million. The President said that he would study the matter with the finance secretary and the budget commissioner. He added that if the full amount cannot be covered because of the estimated lower income of the government, efforts will be made to provide for even only partial payment of the salary differentials.

In the course of remarks delivered at the close of the formal dinner which he tendered in the evening at Malacañang in honor of Francis Cardinal Spellman, the President said that Cardinal Spellman as a prince of the church "loves God" and as an American "loves freedom." He said the church dignitary thus is "doubly qualified to give us moral support against atheistic-invasion or subversion." He said that Cardinal Spellman "by faith and by citizenship" belong to "the two great bodies of men that today are the strong bulwarks of humanity against the Red evil."

May I ask you, therefore, to stand and drink with me to the health and continued missionary success of His Eminence, Francis Cardinal Spellman.

January 11.—FOR breakfast guests this morning, the President had Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Kleenan. Kleenan is the president of the Colonial Trust Company in New York.

The President also received a group of Samar residents who requested material aid, extension of the rural amelioration program to their province, and an early special election for the congressional vacancy caused by the death of the late Rep. Gregorio Tan of the 1st district. The group, calling themselves the Northern Samar Political Bloc, pledged their loyalty and support to the Chief Executive. Those who saw the President were Zosimo Hechanova, Alfredo de la Cruz, Norberto Tizon, Romeo de la Cruz, Dr. Perfecto Ortega, Leonardo Manaog, Manuel Hechanova, and Leandro Canlas.

Other callers of the President included Agricultural Under-secretary Jaime Ferrer, Oscar Arellano of the Jaycees, and Juan C. Orendain.

The President was apprised this day by Liberal Sen. Macario Peralta, Jr., of the difficulties in the reparations negotiations arising from the coming Japanese national elections in March. Peralta, who conferred with the President for 10 minutes, said that no serious approach might be made by the Japanese Government in the negotiations until after the Japanese elections when the winning party could concentrate on the issue. The Liberal senator, who recently arrived from Japan, told the Chief Executive that politics in Japan might stalemate the negotiations until March.

Manager Eligio Tavanlar of the National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration submitted to the President a progress report on the NARRA. Tavanlar reported that in one year, the NARRA had accomplished the following:

- (1) Settled a total of 4,600 families of whom 1,977 were processed from heavily tenanted areas;
- (2) Allocated a total land area of 37,574 hectares to the settlers;
- (3) Planted 5,000 coffee trees in all the NARRA settlements, particularly in Oriental Mindoro and Occidental Negros;
- (4) Distributed 185 carabaos and plows to as many settler families;
- (5) Completed the allocation of 318 lots in San Pedro Tunasan: and
- (6) Distributed 4,362 patents to land occupants in NARRA settlements.

At the request of the NARRA manager, the President ordered the release of P50,000 for the construction of roads in the Wao settlement in Lanao. Tavanlar said that the major problem of the NARRA was the construction of roads to the settlement places.

In the evening, the President radioed Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff, in Jolo, Sulu, ordering him to reorganize and revitalize the intelligence network of the 4th MA including the JOTAF and the PN Sulu Sea Frontier. The President at the same time ordered General Vargas to make an inventory of *Kumpits* powered with 60 hp outboard motors which are being used by the Moros in their raiding attacks. He further directed Vargas to confer with Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason on the possibility of prohibiting the use of these high-powered *Kumpits*.

The President was angered by newspaper reports of attacks made by bandits near Basilan City; the burning by Moro outlaws of the municipal building of Dumalom, Bukidnon; and the raiding by another Moro outlaw band of Kabasalan, Zamboanga del Norte. He was informed that these raids had been known by civilian intelligence five days before the attack.

The President was angered by these reported attacks of Moro bandits which could have been prevented if the Armed Forces intelligence officers in that sector were more alert and were performing their jobs according to expectation. The President wondered why, in spite of advanced knowledge by civilian intelligence of these attacks by the Moro outlaws, the intelligence officers in that area failed to do their tasks.

In his wire to General Vargas, the President directed that the intelligence network of the southern areas be revitalized by deploying incompetent officers and substituting them with competent ones from Camp Murphy. The President directed Vargas to inform him of the steps taken in reorganizing and revitalizing the intelligence network of the 4th MA, the JOTAF, and the PN Sulu Sea Frontier. He said he wanted them to show better performance in their work.

In the afternoon, the President received a letter from Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Estes of 1257 Durand Drive, N. E., Atlanta 6, Georgia, enclosing a check for ten dollars as their donation to the President's Liberty Wells campaign.

The Estes informed the President that their son, Edward D. Estes, Jr., based at Clark Airforce radio station, had written his parents saying that instead of their sending him a Christmas present he would prefer that they send the President a donation for the Liberty Wells campaign. They told the President that their son had told them of the hospitality of the Filipino people and of the Filipinos' warmth and sincerity. "We would like to express our gratitude to you for the courtesies he has received," the letter said.

The President was touched by this special Christmas gift. He wrote the Estes expressing his gratitude for their son's special Christmas gift to the President.

January 12.—SLIPPING out of Malacañang about 7 o'clock this morning, the President kept his aides guessing where he went. It was understood the President took with him progress reports of the various department secretaries and a big bunch of state papers for presidential action. The President said he wanted to start preparing his state-of-the-nation message which he will deliver before Congress on its opening session on Monday, January 24, and to work on pending state papers.

The First Lady and the President's air force aide, Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo, accompanied the Chief Executive.

In the absence of the President, Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia presided over the Cabinet meeting which started about 10:20 a.m. and lasted until 12 noon.

In view of the absence of the President, only routine matters were acted upon by the Cabinet, as follows:

(1) The Cabinet created a special committee composed of Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia as chairman; and Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, Auditor General Manuel Agregado, and Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno as members, to study and report on the memorandum of the secretary of foreign affairs regarding the subject, "Replenishment of working funds of Philippine foreign service establishments."

Vice-President Garcia suggested the return to the old system of remitting money abroad to members of the Philippine foreign missions. He said that at present, as a result of foreign exchange controls, transmission of funds to foreign officials suffer a delay of two or three weeks, resulting sometimes in the embarrassment of our officials abroad. Under the old system, Philippine foreign officials abroad could draw from the PNB branch in New York the amount that was due them not exceeding two-thirds of the total amount. Vice-President Garcia said that the old system was satisfactory.

(2) The Cabinet also created a special committee composed of the Vice-President as chairman; and Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez and Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona as members, to study and report on standardized rates of per diems for government personnel who are sent abroad, based on the category of officials concerned and the missions assigned to them.

The special committee was also directed by the Cabinet to consider the advisability of recommending the inclusion in the next budget of the national government of a lump sum appropriation to take care of expenses of Philippine delegates to meetings and conferences abroad, instead of the present set-up in which funds have to be looked for whenever a mission leaves.

(3) The Cabinet authorized Dr. Manuel V. Olimpia, Jr., medical director of the CAA, to attend a meeting of medical experts on hearing and visual requirements to be convened by the International Civil Aviation Organization on April 25, 1955, in Europe. The meeting will last from seven to 10 days.

This was approved on recommendation of Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma.

(4) The Cabinet authorized Fr. Jose A. Mirasol, director of the Boys Town in Marikina, Rizal, to go to the United States to study and observe the administration of Fr. Flanagan's Boys Town in Omaha, Nebraska, upon invitation of the Rt. Rev. Mons. Nicholas H. Wagner, director of the institution. Fr. Mirasol will be away for a period not exceeding six months. This was recommended by Manila Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson.

The President this day signed Administrative Order No. 91, reprimanding Ruben A. Villaluz, acting chief of the Motor Vehicles Office, for having collected his transportation allowance while using a government-maintained car.

Villaluz had been using a government vehicle operated and maintained with funds appropriated under the law during the months of May, August, and September within Manila and the suburbs. He explained that he had been performing his duties in apprehending violators and enforcing traffic rules and regulations. He also stated that all records of his travels while using a government car as well as his vouchers for his transportation allowances were duly accomplished and transmitted to the accounting officer and auditor of the MVO.

The administrative order stated, however, that Villaluz was not entitled to transportation allowances during the period he was using the government vehicle. The President's directive ruled that the MVO chief had not acted "fraudulently nor in bad faith" since he had submitted the records of his trips along with his transportation allowance vouchers to the proper officials.

Villaluz was required to refund all transportation allowances he had unduly acquired and warned that "commission of a similar offense will be dealt with drastically."

Under Administrative Order No. 92, also signed this day by the President, Samson G. Tamparong, Ozamis City chief of police, was convicted of electioneering and "considered as resigned from the service."

Tamparong was charged in three separate complaints with (1) persecution of a certain member of the Ozamis City Police Department, (2) electioneering, and (3) maladministration of the municipal jail.

The first and last charges were dismissed owing to insufficiency of evidence. However, on the charge of electioneering, Tamparong was found to have driven candidate William Chiongbian's jeep bearing a streamer, "Vote for the LP—the unbeatable team", during the election campaign. He was also found to have been in the company of LP leaders in the town of Tangub, Misamis Occidental, in September last year. Records also revealed that he had offered to dismiss charges against two members of the Ozamis police force provided they voted for the LP candidates.

The President's order stated that Tamparong's actions were a clear violation of the provisions of section 687 of the Revised Administrative Code, prohibiting officers and employees of the civil service from taking active part in election campaigns.

The order said Tamparong was "hereby considered resigned as chief of police of Ozamis City, effective upon receipt of notice hereof, without prejudice to receiving whatever rights and benefits he may be entitled to under, existing laws."

January 13.—FOR the second consecutive day, the President left Malacañang this morning and was unheard from till press time last night. The President was accompanied by his air force aide, Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo. It was believed the President had gone to his presidential suite at the Manila Hotel to prepare his state-of-the-nation address to Congress with some of his advisers.

The President endorsed today to Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason for study and review the full report of the special presidential committee which had investigated bribery charges against three Manila councilors and had found them “guilty as charged.” The President directed his highest legal adviser to submit to him, following such study and review, his own recommendation.

The President ordered the Garcia report sent to Tuason in the afternoon before leaving Malacañang for an undisclosed place where he continued working on his state-of-the-nation message to be delivered to Congress at its opening session, January 24. Since starting on this task yesterday, the President has cancelled all his appointments in order to devote all his time to it. The weekly Friday breakfast-conference between the President and congressional leaders scheduled for tomorrow (Jan. 14) has also been called off for this reason.

The presidential committee, chaired by Malacañang technical assistant Dr. Gaudencio Garcia and composed of Judge Jesus Paredes, Sr., and Assistant Solicitor General Ramon Avanceña, had recommended the “separation from office” of the three councilors. They had also suggested that the possible criminal prosecution of the officials be studied.

The councilors investigated by the Garcia committee were Board President Francis Yuseco and Councilors Justo Ibay and Ruperto Cristobal. They were accused of having received a total of P5,000 from a market association.

The group also had found the officials of the Lirio Terminal Market Association, which had paid the bribe money, guilty of corrupting public officials, and had likewise recommended that their possible prosecution be considered.

In the evening, the President certified to the Court of Industrial Relations the labor dispute between the Philippine Marine Officers Guild on one hand and the Compania Maritima, the Madrigal Shipping Company, and the Philippine Steam Navigation Company on the other, requesting the Court to take immediate appropriate steps in the exercise of its powers granted by law. The letter of certification was signed by Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro by authority of the President.

The President’s certification of the labor dispute to the CIR was in pursuance to Section 10 of Republic Act No. 875, known as the “Magna Charta of Labor,” allowing such certification when “there exists a labor dispute in an industry indispensable to the national interest.”

President Magsaysay took this step after his Cabinet had voted in its meeting Wednesday (Jan. 12) for the certification of the labor dispute to the CIR. By actual count, nine members of the Cabinet voted for the certification, two abstained, and one (Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevos) voted against certification. The Cabinet vote broke a deadlock between Adevos and Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, who earlier had been commissioned a two-man committee to settle the question of certification.

Section 10 of Republic Act No. 875, known as the Magna Charta of Labor, on which the President based his authority for the certification, provides: “When in the opinion of the President of the Philippines there exists a labor dispute in an industry indispensable to the national interest and when such labor dispute is certified by the President to the Court of Industrial Relations, said Court may cause to be issued a restraining order forbidding the employees to strike or the employer to lockout the employees, pending an investigation by the Court, and if no other solution to the dispute is found, the Court may issue an order fixing the terms and conditions of employment.”

January 14.—FOR the third straight day, President Magsaysay remained unavailable to visitors today, as he continued working on his state-of-the-nation message to Congress scheduled for Monday, January 24.

The President left Malacañang early in the morning and returned at noon. He lunched with Press Secretary J. V. Cruz during which the latter was briefed on same important actions taken by the President and on developments in pending issues. The President told his press secretary of his plan to assign only one agency to the muddled Ramos murder and his desire to bring to a head the question of the legality of the stay in office of chairman Domingo Imperial and member Rodrigo Perez of the Commission on Elections.

The President today poised to direct Solicitor General Ambrosio Padilla, through Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, to institute proceedings before the Supreme Court testing the legality of the tenure in office of Domingo Imperial and Rodrigo Perez, chairman and members, respectively, of the Commission on Elections. The President was reported ready to issue the order to resolve the question once and for all. Much urgency has been attached to it in view of the fact that elections, which are supervised by the Commission on Elections, are scheduled in November.

Press Secretary J. V. Cruz said all that the President was awaiting before having the case filed was Secretary Tuason's reply to the memorandum by Imperial urging reconsideration of his (Tuason's) opinion to the effect that Imperial and Perez have been holding their positions illegally. Tuason had claimed that since the two were only serving out the terms of those whom they had preceded in the Commission, they had ceased to hold office legally when such terms expired. This was 1951 in the case of Perez and July 1954 in the case of Imperial.

The President also told Cruz to announce that he planned to name a Liberal governor for Romblon sometime this week. He said he would pick the appointee from five candidates nominated by the Liberal Party. The new governor will replace the Nacionalista incumbent who had succeeded a Liberal who was elected governor in 1951 but who vacated his office permanently when he ran unsuccessfully for Congress in the 1953 elections. The replacement of the Nacionalista incumbent by a Liberal will implement the President's desire to adhere strictly to the law regarding the succession of elective officials who permanently vacate their positions.

The President also informed his press secretary that he had asked Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason to expedite his opinion on the case of the Cavite governorship in the light of suspended Gov. Dominador M. Camerino's filing of his certificate of candidacy for senator in the coming November polls.

After taking a brief nap in the afternoon, the President again left Malacañang at 4:30 p.m. to continue work on his state-of-the-nation address.

The President was reported today to be considering the designation of only one agency to handle the investigation of the Ramos murder case in order to cut short the confusion and chaos that have obstructed its solution.

A Malacañang spokesman said the President was irked by the apparent jealousy and selfish rivalry existing among the three agencies now handling the case, with the result that persons allegedly involved in the case have apparently adopted the strategy of playing one agency against the other. The result, according to the spokesman, has been a welter of contradictory testimonies, denials, retractions, and indescribable confusion. The failure of the agencies to reach a solution has reflected on the government's prestige, he added. Alleged witnesses also seem to have been permitted to lie and contradict themselves with impunity.

January 15.—DISTURBED by a newspaper report of a case of apparent neglect of the Philippine General Hospital to attend to an emergency case, the President called up early in the morning Dr. Florencio Quintos hospital director, and directed him to investigate the reported refusal of PGH staffers to give medical assistance to two pipe fitters of the Metropolitan Water District.

In his instructions to the PGH director, the President directed the dismissal of those responsible for the alleged neglect if found guilty as alleged.

The President was incensed by the report, as he felt that he was being betrayed. He had high hopes for the PGH and had planned to convert it into a charity hospital to serve workers and destitute patients.

After taking shift action on the case, the President called up Secretary of Public Works and Communications Vicente Orosa and requested him to stay longer in the department. Orosa, the only member of the Quirino Cabinet President Magsaysay had retained, had announced his plans to quit the Department of Public Works and Communications.

After his phone call to Secretary Orosa, the President had breakfast with his family. He then received callers.

Some residents of barrio Larap, Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte, called on the President and handed him a donation of P9,000 for the Liberty Wells fund drive. The delegation was headed by Rep. Fernando Pajarillo and Mayor Gregorio Bamba of Jose Panganiban.

At the request of Rep. Pajarillo, the President authorized the release of P2 million for the construction of an irrigation project in Daet, Camarines Norte, which will supply water to some 5,000 hectares of land. The President also released P3,000 from his contingent fund for reclamation projects in Jose Panganiban.

At 9:30 a.m., the President left the Palace again for the fourth consecutive day to work on his state-of-the-nation address to Congress. He was expected to return to Malacañang in the evening.

January 16.—AFTER a four-day strain drafting his state-of-the-nation address, the President spent the early part of the morning with the members of his family in Malacañang. He heard mass and breakfasted with his family. Then he read the morning papers.

About 10:40 a.m., the President left Malacañang for an undisclosed place to resume the preparation of his address before Congress. The President wanted to finish the draft of his speech early in order that he could have ample time to consult the members of his Cabinet on certain points that they would like to be mentioned in the address.

The President returned to the Palace about 3 p.m. He summoned Press Secretary J. V. Cruz to discuss with him the draft of his statement throwing his support to limit the President's term of office to six years without re-election.

In throwing his support behind the move to limit the President's term, President Magsaysay said "the President becomes immune to the unfounded suspicion and mistrust as to the motives behind his acts. Doubts and misgivings as to his sincerity of purpose may be set at rest."

The President suggested that the amendments to the Constitution be drafted by Congress.

"If any constitutional amendments are to be entertained in the future," the President said, "it is preferable that they be proposed by Congress, as provided for in the Constitution. It is the more expeditious way. Also it is less expensive than holding a constitutional convention. Moreover, it is appropriate to rely on the provision allowing Congress by the extraordinary majority required, to propose amendments to the Constitution when the changes are not extensive in character," he pointed out.

"The proposal to limit the presidential term to six years, without reelection, has my full and unqualified approval." the President's statement issued through the Press Secretary began. "My experience in office has served to confirm and strengthen that belief." (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, page 102, for the full text of the President's statement.)

January 17.—THE President at a breakfast conference with Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason this morning gave the go signal for the institution of quo warranto proceedings in the Supreme Court to resolve all doubts as to the legality of the tenure of office of Domingo Imperial and Rodrigo Perez, chairman and member, respectively, of the Commission on Elections. The President decided to take the case to the high tribunal following a conference with Secretary Tuason this morning and later with Rep. Augusto S. Francisco of Manila, chairman of the House judiciary committee.

During his breakfast conference with Secretary Tuason which lasted from 8 to 9:30 a.m., the President also:

(1) Designated the NBI as the sole agency to work on the 45-day old Ramos murder case. The NBI will direct the investigation with the help of some men from the Quezon City police and the Philippine Constabulary who will be detailed with the NBI. The men of the QCPD and PC, who will be assigned to the murder case, will work under the direction of the National Bureau of Investigation;

(2) Heard the opinion of the justice secretary that the filing of a certificate of candidacy for senator of Gov. Dominador M. Camerino of Cavite does not constitute automatic forfeiture of the latter's post as provincial chief executive in view of the charges pending against him;

(3) Asked Secretary Tuason to expedite his review of the findings of the Garcia committee which found three Manila councilors guilty of bribery and to submit to him his own recommendation as soon as possible.

The Chief Executive instructed the justice secretary to prepare a formal written opinion on the Camerino case to aid him in deciding a petition of Liberal Party leaders for the appointment of a Liberal governor to succeed Camerino, who, the Liberals alleged, had automatically forfeited his post with the filing of his certificate of candidacy with the Commission on Elections.

The President started receiving scheduled callers at his executive office shortly before 10 a.m.

A delegation of sugar planters from Ormoc, Leyte, accompanied by Senator Ruperto Kangleon sought the government's intervention in the renewal of their 25-year contract with the Ormoc Milling Company, which is due to expire this year. Members of the group informed the President that the company would renew the contract only on less favorable terms to the planters while the planters wanted an extension of the very same contract.

Sen. Fernando Lopez saw the President on the construction of an irrigation project in Dingle, Iloilo. During his call, Lopez received a P10,000-check as aid from the National Government for the repair and reconstruction of buildings in the Boy's Town of Iloilo, which had been severely damaged by recent typhoons.

Gov. Aresenio Lugay and Rep. Constancio Castañeda of Tarlac also requested financial aid for various projects in their province. The President received callers until 12 noon.

The Chief Executive inducted into office members of the National Forestry Council. Informed by the members of the council of their plan to move the celebration of Arbor Day from September to June, the President offered no objection.

Inducted by the President were Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta, chairman, and Brig. Gen. Pelagio A. Cruz, PAF commanding general, Brig. Florencio Selga, PC chief, Animal Industry Director Manuel Sumulong, Justice Undersecretary Jesus Barrera, Roberto Villanueva, Florencio Tamesis, Antonio de las Alas, and Filemon M. Zablan of the National Power Corporation, members. Members of the council who were not present at the induction were Forestry Director Felipe Amos and Soil Conservation Director Marcos M. Alicante.

At the request of Rep. Serafin Salvador of Rizal, the President ordered the release of P35,000 for the Pililla dike irrigation project in Rizal as provided in the budget.

Dr. Philip Bradfield, an English authority on the II-11 wonder drug cure for all types of cancer, called on the President and requested the lowering of taxes on the drug so that it can be sold to poor people at prices they can afford.

The President received a delegation from Batangas headed by Gov. Feliciano Leviste. The delegation, numbering about 25, requested material aid from the Chief Executive. Other provincial delegations received by the President

were the Isabela group headed by Rep. Samuel Reyes and the Cagayan residents accompanied by Rep. Felipe Garduque. Both delegations asked for aid in the construction of public works projects.

The chief of police of four municipalities called on the President and informed him of their desire to form a national association of police chiefs. The President told them to go ahead with the plans so that there would be closer relations and coordination among all the chiefs of police in the country. Those who saw the President were Col. Ricardo Nieva of Pasay City, Maj. Fernando Chaingan of Caloocan, Capt. Bartolome Sevilla of Malabon, and Capt. Armando Alonzo of Navotas.

Another caller was Rep. Diosdado Macapagal of Pampanga, who paid his respects to the Chief Executive. Rep. Macapagal had just come home from the United States where he served as a member of the Bell trade revision mission headed by Sen. Jose P. Laurel.

January 18.—EARLY in the morning the President received Rep. Ricardo Ladrado of Iloilo, acting chairman of the House committee on health, who reported that the President's stand on the proposed amendment to the Constitution advocating restoration of the presidential term to six years without reelection, had been well received in the provinces. Ladrado, who had just arrived from a tour of the country to look into the health needs of the rural communities, said that people in the provinces seemed to feel that the stand taken by President Magsaysay was an indication of his desire to devote all his time to the welfare of the people, free from political interference.

The President today took steps to minimize delay in the release of public works funds needed from time to time in government construction projects all over the country by eliminating much of the usual red tape in the processing of release papers. During a conference with Reps. Florencio Moreno, chairman of the House committee on public works, and Tobias Fornier of Antique, chairman of the House appropriations committee, the President gave out instructions to various executive officials concerned to rush the release papers and have them pass through as few hands as possible.

The two solons who called at Malacañang this morning deplored that delays in the release of funds had often snagged construction schedules. They said that work on roads, bridges, irrigation systems, and other economic development projects being put up in various parts of the country sometimes suffered setbacks owing to lack of building materials.

About 10 a.m., the President received a delegation of YLAC officers headed by Mrs. Nini Quezon-Avanceña, directress-adviser, who received his contribution of P500 to start off the organization's fund drive. The President's contribution marked the formal opening of this year's YLAC annual campaign to raise funds for the maintenance of charity schools and clinics it had set up in different parts of the country. Other members of the delegation were Mesdames Teresa Feria Nieva and Liling Nuguid; and Misses Anita Fragante, Mary Fermin, Lulu Afable, Rosalina Cancio, Sally Unson, Carmen Borromeo, and Baby Francia.

Then the President received Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., wife of the former Philippine governor general, who is on a few days' visit here as a member of the American Battle Monuments Commission. On her first visit to this country since 1937, Mrs. Roosevelt expressed amazement over the rapid rebuilding of Manila after hearing reports of extensive destruction in the city during the war. Mrs. Roosevelt, recalled some of her pleasant experiences in the Philippines when her husband was governor general here in 1932. She said they had spent a considerable part of their stay here traveling all over the country.

Mrs. Roosevelt was accompanied on her call by her daughter, Mrs. Grace McMillan, who recalled the underground rivers in Palawan and the colorful costumes of the Moros in Mindanao and Sulu. Mrs. McMillan said she used to go along with her parents on inspection trips to the provinces.

Mrs. Roosevelt was shown around the Palace by Mrs. Magsaysay. She readily recognized many of the old household help who used to serve them during their stay in Malacañang. Mrs. Roosevelt and her daughter were accompanied to Malacañang by Mrs. Raymond Spruance, wife of the American ambassador.

The President received callers from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Other visitors included Sens. Tomas Cabili and Mariano J. Cuenco, Rep. Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo, and former Senate President Jose Avelino.

In the afternoon, the President ordered the immediate completion of irrigation projects in Pangasinan at the request of a large group of residents who complained that they could not plant rice during the coming dry season without irrigation system. The President received the delegation at almost 1 p.m.- after meeting a total of over 300 callers. Rep. Amadeo Perez and Acting Gov. Conrado Estrella headed the delegation.

The irrigation projects affected by the order of the Chief Executive were those in the towns of Urdaneta, Mangatarem, and Sison. He directed the Department of Public Works and Communications to rush the irrigation project in Urdaneta. He also ordered 400 bags of cement given for the irrigation system in Mangatarem.

Another big provincial delegation received by the President came from the towns of Aliaga and Bongabong, Nueva Ecija. It also requested material aid in the construction and repair of barrio roads. The delegation was headed by Rep. Jose Corpuz and Gov. Leopoldo Diaz.

Acting UP President Rep. Cornelio Villareal of Capiz conferred briefly with the President on the cases of suspended governors and mayors of his party. The President promised him that justice and fairness will be observed in the investigation of these cases.

Rep. Wenceslao Lagumbay and Gov. Dominador Chipeco of Lacuna headed a delegation from two towns in their province. The delegation requested the Chief Executive to intercede against the proposed transfer of the 16th BCT from Laguna. With the delegation were Mayors Cirilo Balubayan of Pakil and Alfredo Fabricante of Pangil.

Reps. Justino Nuyda and Pio Duran and Gov. Manuel Calleja of Albay requested financial aid for the completion of highway projects in their province.

The President also received members of the presidential committee on mine investigation and the members of the technical staff of the Gold Subsidy Board who submitted a report on the progress of their work. The group was headed by Servillano Aquino, chairman of both bodies.

The Philippine Institute of Chemical Engineers presented the President with a certificate of honorary membership. The certificate was handed to the Chief Executive by President Felix V. Espino.

Other callers included Reps. Serafin Salvador, Emilio Tible, Ricardo Ladrido, and Samuel Reyes; Gov. Damaso Samonte of Ilocos Norte; Undersecretary of Agriculture Jaime Ferrer; and ex-Representative Agripino Escareal.

Malacañang announced this day the stepping up of the work of the civil defense organization with the appointment of a deputy civil defense administrator and four field assistants. The appointees are Mateo Canopy, deputy civil defense administrator; and Faustino L. Capati, Basilio Pineda, Guillermo Espino, and Jose Acuña, field assistants.

With the designation of these officials, progress of the civil defense organization in the 52 provinces and 27 chartered cities will be fully stepped up.

It was revealed that as of the goals last year, 40 provinces and 21 chartered cities had already been organized for civil defense, and personnel are now in the period of training.

It was also announced by the Civil Defense Administration that civil defense instruction for public and private school teachers in the Philippines is in full swing. Instruction in 22 provinces including Manila has been completed. So far 40,000 public school teachers have been briefed on civil defense measures. Lectures on civil defense have been given in about 40 universities, colleges, and public and private schools.

It was pointed out that the present main objective of the civil defense administration is to utilize the facilities of the office in assisting during peace time in such calamities as fires, storms, and epidemics. The objectives also include a long-range program in helping implement President Magsaysay economic rural development program.

The Civil Defense Administration will hold its offices at the ground floor of the Independence grandstand at the Luneta.

January 19.—EARLY this morning, the President received Paul Parette of the Philippine Manufacturing Company, who called at Malacañang to discuss plans of his company to put up a palm oil mill at the site of the projected NARRA settlement near the Davao penal colony. Parette said the proposed mill will produce hydrogenated oil now being imported from abroad for the manufacture of soap and lard. The President enthusiastically welcomed the plan as a means of saving dollar reserves and relieving the nation's unemployment problem.

Economic Coordination Administrator Alfredo Montelibano, who accompanied the PMC executive, also informed the President of plans of the NARRA to open up a palm plantation in the area to be manned by settlers. He said released prisoners from the colony will be given preference to settle and work in the plantation which will provide raw materials for the PMC mill.

A delegation from the Summer Institute of Linguistics, composed of American professors and students undertaking studies and researches on minor Philippine dialects, called to submit a copy of its third semi-annual report to the President.

Accompanied by Enrique Fernando, Malacañang legal assistant, Dr. Robert S. Pittman, director of the institute, presented the President with printed literary materials and primers prepared by the institute on dialects used by primitive tribes in Mindanao, such as Kalagans and the Tagabils in Cotabato, the Dibabaon-Mandayas, and the Sarangani Manobos in Davao, and the Central Mindanao Manobos in Bukidnon.

Dr. Pittman, who is currently assisting the U.P., the Department of Education, and the Institute of National Language by giving linguistic courses as a Fulbright professor, informed the President that aside from helping promote literacy in rural and mountain areas, his institute is also building reading and recreation center's for inhabitants of the outlying districts.

A delegation of officials and employees of the Metropolitan Water District headed by Jesus Perlas, assistant manager, presented a P5,500-check as their contribution to the Liberty Wells fund drive.

Officials of the Cebu Portland Cement Company called to discuss the appointment of the firm's general manager to replace Edward Taylor, who is scheduled to retire at the end of the month. The callers were Jose Panganiban, Sixto Orosa, Jr., Jose Feria, Edgardo Villavicencio, Dalmacio Urtula, and Leodovico Hidrosollo, all members of the CEPOC board of directors.

A delegation from the National Association of Veterans of the Revolution headed by Hilario Miralta Carpio, association president, saw the Chief Executive on the implementation of Republic Act No. 539, increasing their monthly pension from P15 to amounts ranging from P30 to P100, according to rank.

Some 90 field personnel of the Bureau of Plant Industry now in Manila to attend the silver jubilee celebration of the bureau called to pay their respects. They were accompanied by Agriculture Undersecretary Jaime Ferrer.

Other callers included Judge Modesto Castillo of the CTR, Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, NARIC General Manager Juan O. Chioco, Dr. Albino SyCip, Dean Conrado Benitez, Col. Henry Gilhouser, Hans Menzi, and H. B. Reyes.

The President convoked the regular weekly meeting of his Cabinet at 10:30 am. He presided over the regular Cabinet meeting this day for only about 25 minutes, as he had to receive important callers.

The President inquired of Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta about the progress of the anti-rat campaign of the government waged last year in Cotabato and other rat-infested provinces in view of reports that rat infestation was again on the rise.

Secretary Araneta reported to the Cabinet that a survey made by the barrio supervisors in the field covering a little over 50 per cent of the total area planted to rice in Cotabato showed that about 3,000,000 cavans of palay had already been harvested during the middle of December, 1954. At P6 a cavan of palay, the government was able to save P30 million worth of crop, Araneta said.

Araneta added that the overall percentage of damage to rice crop in Cotabato was only 17 per cent as compared to 95 per cent of the previous year's crop during the height of the rat infestation. He said that out of the P2 million allotted to his department for the campaign against the rats, only P201,928.93 remained available. He also said that 33,526 kilos of ratoxin, 13,961 kilos of white arsenic, and 26,174 kilos of cyanogas were still available for use as rodenticides for control work.

Giving details of the anti-rat campaign of his department, Secretary Araneta said that 19,402 hectares had been covered by the use of airplane broadcasting corn poison with "1080" from March to August, 1954, with an estimated 21,888,826 rats killed. The use of the airplane had been stopped during the month of August because the marshes had been flooded making this method ineffective. However, the work will be resumed during the first week of February this year.

Araneta added that his department initiated the operation of poison plants for the manufacture of thallium sulphate torpedo baits which was started during the first week of June, 1954. The thallium sulphate is mixed with finely ground corn and sugar. This mixture is then wrapped in a 4-inch square paper, prepared con-shaped, and then soaked in parafin to protect the bait from rain. The field workers of the department reported the success of the application of this bait as beyond expectations. The demand for it was so big that it was necessary to install more plants for poison baits in almost all the rat-infested provinces. A total of 74 manufacturing gadgets throughout the Philippines are now in operation.

Secretary Araneta reported that as of 30 days ago there had been no more reports of rat infestation but that 10 days ago a new infestation had been reported. It was explained, that the rat infestation was a continuing menace which required continuous vigilance.

Summarizing the rice situation in Cotabato with reference to the anti-rat campaign waged by the Government last year, Araneta said that the value of palay saved, which was about five million cavans, was P30 million. He estimated that the increase in the yield of palay in 1954 over that of 1953 was about two million cavans, valued at P12 million.

President Magsaysay told Araneta to carry on the anti-rat campaign without let-up to prevent further destruction of crops.

After hearing the Araneta report, the President left and Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia took over, and only routine matters were taken up during the rest of the meeting.

January 20.—AS he wished to have seclusion and tranquility this day in order to go over and give the finishing touches to his state-of-the-nation message, the President cancelled appointments with scheduled callers. Even the regular breakfast conference with congressional leaders had to be put off.

But the President could not have tranquility in Malacañang as he wanted, for Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff, and Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug blew in unexpectedly and sought audience with the President.

Gen. Vargas and Secretary Cabahug reported on the smouldering discord on the plan to reorganize the Army which threatened to rip through the Armed Forces. They disowned the reorganization plan which Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol had blueprinted.

Another conference followed in the afternoon between the President and Maj. Gen. Robert M. Cannon, chief of the Joint U. S. Military Advisory Group in the Philippines.

Informed of the visit in the morning of Secretary Cabahug and Gen. Vargas, Crisol rushed to Malacañang and found Gen. Cannon with the President. Crisol explained his side in his intramural conflict with Cabahug and Vargas over the overhauling of the AFP. Crisol is dead set against the present set-up which, he claimed, concentrates too much power in the chief of staff.

In the afternoon, the President called in Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro and worked with him on pending state papers. The President then gave the order for the organization of an Economic Planning Board to advise the Chief Executive on economic and financial policies of the government.

The eight-man board is composed of Central Bank Gov. Miguel Cuaderno, chairman; and Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, Malacañang Adviser Filemon C. Rodriguez, Dean Herminigildo B. Reyes, Hans Menzi, and Teodoro F. Valencia, as members. The President will name two other members consisting of a senator and a representative after consultation with the Council of Leaders.

The terms of reference of the Economic Planning Board are as follows:

- (1) To make a study of, and submit recommendations on, the present program of economic development, and of the activities of the various government agencies and instrumentalities which are related to, or may have a bearing on, economic development, devoting major attention to specific high priority developmental projects which the Government should promote, considering the major impact on the nation's economy of the revision of the trade agreement between the Philippines and the United States;
- (2) To submit recommendations on the establishment of a tariff structure that will influence economic development;
- (3) To submit drafts of measures necessary to implement the revised economic relations between the Philippines and the United States, as contemplated in the new trade agreement between these two countries;
- (4) To submit recommendations on the necessary measures to encourage investment of domestic and foreign private capital for economic development; and
- (5) To review and submit recommendations on economic and financial policies.

The Economic Planning Board will from time to time submit its report and recommendations on any of the matters included within its terms of reference. It is authorized to call upon any department, bureau, office, agency, or instrumentality of the government for such assistance as it may need in the performance of its works.

The administrative order formalizing the creation of the economic planning board will be signed by the President momentarily.

The President in the evening appointed Jose D. Mayor, Liberal, as acting governor of Romblon to replace Manuel L. Solidum, Nacionalista.

The President made this appointment upon receiving an official report from Technical Assistant Sofronio Quimson that the Liberal Party through Rep. Eugenio Perez of Pangasinan had certified to Malacañang the names of five candidates from whom to choose the successor of former Gov. Jovencio Q. Mayor, a Liberal.

The former governor, who had been elected in 1951, ran for Congress in 1953 against Rep. Florencio Moreno, thus automatically relinquishing the governorship, and lost. A Nacionalista, Manuel Solidum, was appointed as his successor.

After having been apprised of the facts of the case, the President directed Quimson to have Solidum removed and replaced by a Liberal. In his directive to Quimson, the President had ordered a review of all appointments to provincial governorship made by the Administration with a view to insuring that all permanent vacancies for provincial governorship be filled by persons belonging to the same party as their respective elective predecessors.

Jose D. Mayor, the new acting governor of Romblon, is a lawyer and is at present chief of the Boy Scout organization in his province. His name was among the five submitted by the local chapter of the Liberal Party in Romblon to the Liberal Party directorate in Manila.

January 21.—EARLY in the morning, the President received Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, who explained lengthily his side in the controversy with Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug and Lieut Gen. Jesus Vargas on one hand and Maj. Gen. Robert M. Cannon, JUSMAG chief, on the other. Crisol said his intelligence operatives had informed him that his relief from the Department had been recommended.

After his conference with Crisol, the President told newsmen: "I have no plans to relieve Crisol."

The President also received Andre Kostelanetz, noted U. S. conductor, who presented his works to the Chief Executive. He was accompanied to Malacañang by Protacio Sta. Cruz and Luis Villar.

A big delegation of sugar planters from Iloilo and Negros called on the President to pledge anew their support of his administration. The sugar planters, who are affiliated with the Philippine Planters Investment Company, informed the President that they had purchased the minority shares in the Binalbagan-Isabela Sugar Company and thus gained absolute control over the BISCOP.

The President congratulated the sugar planters for the success of their four-year effort to win what he called "industrial peace."

Among the sugar planters who composed the big delegation were OEC Administrator Alfredo Montelibano, Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, Dr. Jose Soriano, Dr. Jose Mirasol, Salvador Benedicto, J. Bugarin Silos, Nestor Jalandoni, Benjamin Javellana, Emilio Camon, Roberto Villanueva, Pacifico Villaluz, Andres de la Cruz, Jose Yusay, and Miguel Gatuslao.

At noon, the President went to the Manila Hotel to felicitate Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., on his 72nd birthday. He led the guests in offering a toast for the continued good health of the Nacionalista Party chief. Top government officials led by senators, representatives, and justices attended the banquet held in honor of the Senate President in the Manila Hotel Winter Garden.

The President returned to the Palace after lunch and worked on pending state papers.

January 22.—THE President cancelled all appointments in the morning and worked on state papers. He enlarged the membership of the newly organized Economic Planning Board by appointing Minister Cesar Lanuza and Dr. Leonides S. Virata as additional members. This brings up the board membership to ten.

The President said that he will formally announce soon the names of the Senate and House membership to the board. The Chief Executive has sounded out congressional leaders on the matter, and the formal announcement of the names will be made after a meeting with the Council of Leaders.

Press Secretary J. V. Cruz explained that the newly created EPB was temporary in nature, pending the enactment of Congress of legislation to be proposed permanently creating such an economic body. In the meanwhile, Secretary Cruz pointed out, it is necessary that, pending the passage of the law and in view of the impact on the nation's economy of the revision of the trade agreement between the Philippines and the United States, the Economic Planning Board make a study of, and submit recommendations on, the present program of economic development of the country.

Cruz added that the President was desirous of receiving immediately recommendations on the necessary measures to encourage investment of domestic and foreign private capital for economic development. He explained further that the President wants the Board to be guided directly by the trend of public opinion regarding economic matters. For this reason, a newspaperman, Teodoro F. Valencia, was made a member of the Board, Cruz said.

Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro in the morning swore into office Francisco J. Fajardo as acting member of the Board of Examiners for Architects for another three years. The oath-taking was attended by Edmundo Lucero, another board member, and friends of the inductee.

Secretary Castro also swore in Rodolfo A. Agustin as register of deeds of Tagaytay City. Among those present were Workmen's Compensation Commission Deputy Commissioner Mrs. Nieves Baens del Rosario, Felipe Montesa, David Lindayag, and Prudencio Dequina.

The President sent Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro and Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo, his aide, to meet Sen. Jose P. Laurel on his behalf at the Manila International Airport in the afternoon. From the airport Sen. Laurel and the reception committee headed by Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia and Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., proceeded to the Independence Grandstand on the Luneta, where they informed the hundreds of people that they were going to Malacañang to call on the President and invite him to attend the ceremonies at the grandstand.

Sen. Laurel and his party arrived at Malacañang at 4:15 p.m. and proceeded directly to the President's study where the President had been awaiting the returning Senator. The President and Sen. Laurel shook hands and warmly greeted each other. The President welcomed Sen. Laurel and congratulated him and the members of his mission for their work in securing amendments to the trade agreement between the Philippines and the United States.

Accompanying Sen. Laurel to Malacañang were Vice-President Garcia, Senate President Rodriguez, Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson, Gov. Wenceslao Pascual of Rizal, Gov. Dominador Chipeco of Laguna, Gov. Alejo Santos of Bulacan, Mayor Norberto Amoranto of Quezon City, Mayor Enrique Manaloto of Pasay City, and Rep. Jacobo Gonzales of Laguna.

In the course of informal conversation between the President and Sen. Laurel, the Senator said that he wanted to explain to the people the significance of the changes that had been obtained in the trade agreement between the Philippines and the United States. He added that the amendments to the Bell Trade Act were the best that his mission could get under the circumstances. Sen. Laurel remarked that his mission was non-partisan and therefore its action carried the sanction of the different parties.

The President said that he had been confident of the success of the Laurel Mission and that he had made a good choice in naming Sen. Laurel as head of the mission. He mentioned the fact that he had received a cablegram from Mrs. Cowles in the United States stating that the people in America were proud that Sen. Laurel was sent to head the mission.

Then the President and Senator Laurel toasted each other on the success of the trade mission.

Upon invitation of the reception committee, President Magsaysay joined Sen. Laurel in going to the Independence Grandstand on the Luneta, arriving there at 4:40 p.m. In the presidential car were the President, Vice-President Garcia, Senate President Rodriguez, Sen. Laurel, Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., and Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo.

Thousands of people who had gathered at the grandstand cheered the presidential party as it arrived. The grandstand was filled to capacity with Cabinet members, senators, representatives, and high government officials. American Ambassador Raymond Spruance was also in attendance.

Gov. Alejo Santos acted as master of ceremonies. Among the speakers were Mayor Lacson, who gave a brief welcome address, Senate President Rodriguez, who introduced Sen. Laurel, and Sen. Laurel himself, who spoke in English and Tagalog explaining the achievements of his mission.

Sen. Laurel said that the trade mission brought back to the Philippines something substantial in the political and economic fields. He said that as a result of the work of the Mission the Philippines had secured the complete attributes of sovereignty. Senator Laurel paid high tribute to the Democratic, the Citizen, and the Liberal parties for their work in the Mission.

Laurel was warmly applauded by the crowd several times. The people demanded that the President deliver a speech, but the President limited himself to thanking the people in expressing their warm welcome to the Laurel Mission.

From the grandstand the President requested Senate President Rodriguez and Sen. Laurel to get into his car. The President conducted Sen. Laurel to his residence in Peñafrancia. From there the President returned to Malacañang

January 23.—AFTER hearing mass and breakfasting with his family, the President closeted himself with Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa, Filemon C. Rodriguez, and Legislative Secretary Jose Nable, who helped him go over his message to Congress on the state of the nation. It took them the whole morning to put the message in final shape.

The President spent more than a week in seclusion with his advisers drafting the annual message to Congress. When the final draft had been carefully gone over and typewritten, the President ordered the message sent to the Bureau of Printing.

January 24.—THE President left the Palace in the morning to continue last-minute work on his state-of-the-nation message. When a congressional committee came to Malacañang to inform him officially that Congress had opened its 100-day session, the Chief Executive was nowhere to be found.

Legislative Secretary Jose Nable was frantic. Wires apparently got mixed up somewhere, and afternoon papers raised a furor on the absence of the President, saying that the President had “snubbed” the congressional committee.

President Magsaysay received in the afternoon the committees from the Senate and the House, created to notify him that the session of Congress had opened and was ready to receive his report on the state of the nation in a joint session.

The members of the Senate committee arrived at Malacañang separately, led by Sen. Alejo Mabanag, chairman of the group, who arrived at 3:25 p.m. and was followed about five minutes later by Sen. Enrique Magalona. The House committee, composed of Reps. Eulogio Rodriguez, Jr., chairman, and Carlos Hilado and Floro Crisologo, members, arrived in a group soon afterwards, trailed closely behind by Sen. Ruperto Kangleon, third member of the Senate group. The President received the solons at the ante-room to his private quarters and offered them *merienda* of coffee and sandwiches during their visit.

Members of the House committee, upon seeing the President, promptly denied press reports that they had been “snubbed” by the Chief Executive when they went to Malacañang in the morning to notify him of the Congress session. The solons said they learned that the President was out of Malacañang when they called and that he did not know of their visit, so that he could not have possibly “snubbed” them. The legislators said some misunderstanding in arrangements caused them to go to Malacañang in the morning.

The President told the congressmen he had left the Palace in the morning to continue last-minute work on his state-of-the-nation message. He said he assumed that the notification committee were going to call on him in the afternoon since that was how it happened last year. The congressmen assured the President they would tell their House colleagues that there was absolutely no basis to the reports that the committee had been “snubbed.” The legislators left Malacañang at 3:50 p.m.

The President received a thunderous ovation as he entered the session hall of Congress at exactly 5 o’clock in the afternoon to deliver his state-of-the-nation message. He was accompanied by the First Lady, Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro, and Maj. Patrocinio Garcia, presidential aide.

The Chief Executive was greeted with a deafening ovation from the galleries as well as from the floor as he was being ushered into the House Session hall, where the joint session of the Third Congress was held to hear the message of the President.

In his message on the state of the nation, the President alerted Congress against the “grave dangers” of Communist aggression a few hundred miles north of the Philippines. He warned the people to “remain on guard” as “Communist imperialism. . . is still actively promoting subversion within the free nations.”

The President pointed out that as the Third Congress holds its second regular sessions, “the Tachen islands, only a few hundred miles north of us are aflame under new Communist attacks.” He cautioned the country against complacency and urged it to “continue to be alert to the dangers of Communist aggression and subversion.”

President Magsaysay formally outlined the program of his administration and reiterated his appeal for national unity in the implementation of his policies.

The following are some of the salient points in the state-of-the-nation message to Congress by the President:

1. The people’s faith in democratic life is restored.
2. We must be alert to the Red menace.
3. Rural development strengthens national security.
4. Labor is assured of decent encouragement.
5. Private enterprises of new industries should be encouraged.
6. Government finances have been improved.
7. Penalties for tax evasion should be increased.
8. Economic planning is a continuing one.
9. Our foreign policy has strengthened our national security.
10. Nothing useful can be built on a foundation of disunity.

(See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 103-118, for the full text of the President’s address on the state of the nation.)

After delivering his message, the President left the session hall with Mrs. Magsaysay. It was a relief for him after almost two weeks of seclusion preparing the message which took him only 54 minutes to deliver.

January 25.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay cancelled a scheduled trip to Zambales this day and received a group of over 100 Nueva Ecija residents who complained about the bad roads, artesian wells, and irrigation systems in their barrios.

The delegation, headed by NARIC General Manager Juan O. Chioco and mayors of six towns, was given by the President P10,000 for the improvement of barrio roads and P4,000 for typhoon-damaged schoolhouses. The Chief Executive told the delegation not to worry about artesian’ wells because every barrio would be provided with clean drinking water.

Those with the delegation were Rep. Celestino Juan, Mayors Teodoro Santiago of Cabanatuan City, Nicetas Viesca of San Antonio, Honorato Viardo of Licab, Alfredo Briones of Lupao, Julian Pascual of Sto. Domingo, and Delfin Divina of Cuyapo.

Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez headed another delegation composed of provincial officials from Misamis Oriental who requested financial and material aid from the President for the reconstruction of typhoon-affected projects in their province. With the delegation were Rep. Ignacio Cruz, Misamis Oriental Acting Gov. Vicente Lara, District Engineer Desiderio Anolin, and Vice-Mayor Osmundo Waga of Cagayan de Oro City.

Rep. Manuel Enverga also called to take up with the President the proposed plan for a housing project in Mauban, Quezon. A big fire in Mauban had rendered many of the residents homeless.

Earlier this morning, the President received Defense Minister Ho Thong Minh of South Viet Nam, who called to pay his respects following his recent arrival in Manila in the course of a goodwill tour. He was accompanied to Malacañang by Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug and Col. Mamerto Montemayor, head of the Southeast Asia Military Affairs Office of the Department of National Defense.

Acting Gov. Conrado Estrella of Pangasinan reported to the President on the progress of public works projects in his province. He invited the Chief Executive to attend the laying of the cornerstone for the big Agno River irrigation system project in February.

Rep. Leonardo Perez of Nueva Viscaya asked for financial aid from the Chief Executive for an irrigation project in the province.

Other morning callers included Sen. Justiniano S. Montano, Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., Gov. Patricio Fernandez of Palawan, and ex-Rep. Fortunato de Leon.

In the afternoon, the President received a petition signed by hundreds of residents of San Miguel district in Manila urging approval of a city ordinance appropriating P300,000 for the purchase of an elementary school site in the district. The ordinance had been vetoed by the city mayor.

Presented by Mariano S. Perez, president of the San Miguel Parents-Teachers Association, the petition urgently appealed for the purchase of the school site for the sake of hundreds of school children living in the district who had to enroll in schools located in other sections of the city to obtain an elementary education.

House Majority Floor Leader Arturo M. Tolentino, who accompanied the PTA president to Malacañang, informed the Chief Executive that he had sponsored a bill appropriating P100,000 for the construction of an elementary school building in San Miguel. The bill had been passed by Congress during the last session, he said, but the school could not be constructed for failure of the city government to provide for a site.

The proposed site is on the corner of Tanduay and Padilla streets in San Miguel. The necessary sum with which to purchase the lot, which will include spacious playgrounds for children, had been appropriated twice by the city council but was vetoed both times by the mayor. Under the city charter, when the mayor vetoes a proposed ordinance twice, the city council may appeal to the President, who will decide the controversy.

President Magsaysay this noon received the sixth monthly report of the BIR-NBI tax collection group which showed an additional amount of P1,303,527.31 in internal revenue taxes, surcharges, and penalties assessed against 52 corporations and individuals during the period from December 10, 1954, to January 10, 1955.

This brings up to P13,089,192.03 the total uncollected taxes discovered by the group since its creation last July to ferret out tax delinquents. The group which had been rendering monthly progress reports to the President summarized their accomplishments during the last six months as follows: first month, P2,326,494.29; second month, P2,511,118.58; third month, P2,189,435.99; fourth month, P1,607,229.96; fifth month, P3,151,385.90; and sixth month, P1,303,527.31.

The sixth report, which was submitted by Jose Arañas, head of the group, informed the President of the successful termination of the investigation of a domestic corporation formed allegedly for the purpose of preventing the imposition of income tax upon its stockholders through the medium of permitting its profits to accumulate instead of being distributed to stockholders.

This corporation had allegedly accumulated surplus profits beyond the reasonable needs of the business and given out to stockholders and members sums amounting to as much as P18,000 in the form of bonuses and gratuities instead of declaring them as dividends which would be taxable under the Income Tax Law.

Arañas reported that his group, aside from its primary duty of tax assessment, had also endeavored to collect the taxes and penalties assessed by convincing the taxpayers of the accuracy and justice of their assessments and by urging them to pay voluntarily without need of demand or notice from the Bureau of Internal Revenue. His written report showed that many of the taxpayers so approached had paid their corresponding taxes, surcharges, and penalties. It listed the names and addresses of the 52 corporations and individuals, most of whom are in Manila and nearby provinces, with tax assessments ranging from P5 to P343,599.06. Some of these sums have remained unpaid since 1948.

The President also received Arturo Perez, the ROTC cadet who shot and killed two alleged leaders of suspended Gov. Rafael Lacson in Escalante, Negros Occidental, during the elections of 1951. Perez was one of the ROTC cadets deputized by the Commission on Elections to preserve peace and order in the polling places during the 1951 elections on the recommendation of President Magsaysay, then defense secretary.

An engineering student at the Mapua Institute of Technology, Perez, who is now in the custody of military authorities in Camp Murphy during the pendency of the homicide charges filed against him, informed the President he had shot the two men in self-defense while guarding his post at one of the polling places in Escalante, Negros Occidental, three years ago.

The President assured Perez that the Government would extend to him all the necessary help in the defense of his case. He said he would never forget the invaluable assistance given by thousands of ROTC cadets in making the 1951 elections clean and orderly. Perez was accompanied to Malacañang by Capt. Juan Esguerra of the JAGO, who had been assigned to defend him in the court of first instance of Negros Occidental.

Meanwhile, the President sent a message to General of the Army Douglas MacArthur in New York City greeting him on his birthday tomorrow, January 26, on behalf of the Filipino people. The full text of the President's message which was cabled late this afternoon, follows:

"I am very proud to join the people of the Philippines in wishing you a most memorable birthday celebration and in reaffirming our boundless gratitude. Other peoples of the free world will no less rejoice that you have hurdled another eventful year, for in the overall sweep of allied resistance against the forces of aggression then, you stood out as one of their foremost defenders and benefactors. We wish you many more years of happy life and please accept renewed assurances of my highest esteem."

January 26.—THE President had an hour-long breakfast conference this morning with Sen. Jose P. Laurel and Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., to discuss the early implementation of the revision of the Bell Trade Act.

Sen. Laurel, who was chairman of the Philippine mission to the U.S. for the revision of the Bell Trade Act, told the President of the difficulties encountered by his group during their conferences with the U.S. panel headed by James Langley. Laurel expressed elation, however, over the overall final results of the negotiations and the achievements scored by the Filipino group. He recommended to the President that Congress be urged to take early action towards implementation of the revised trade agreement.

After the breakfast conference, the President named the executive department representatives to the joint executive-congressional committee to study the effects of the retail trade nationalization law to guide future policy on nationalization. He appointed Secretary of Commerce and Industry Oscar Ledesma, Secretary of Finance Jaime Hernandez, and Economic Coordinator Alfredo Montelibano.

The congressional members of the committee are Sens. Edmundo B. Cea, Gil J. Puyat, and Quintin Paredes; and Reps. Daniel Romualdez, Arturo Tolentino and Eugenio Perez.

The President received the members of the executive committee of the Philippine Industry Week who apprised him of the progress of preparations for the coming celebration. Among those who called on the Chief Executive were Roberto Villanueva, chairman of the executive committee, Secretary Oscar Ledesma, Economic Coordinator Alfredo Montelibano, Manuel Elizalde, and A. B. Isip.

Michael W. Turner, chief manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, paid his respects to the President. With him were Ronald MacIntyre, Manila branch manager of the bank, and N. Y. Orosa, lawyer of the Manila branch.

Alex Frieder and Morris Frieder of Frieder and Sons Co. of New York were also received by the President. The American business executives were accompanied by Alejandro Cruz and Arturo Reyes, local representatives of the company.

ACCFA Administrator Col. Osmundo Mondoñedo and Manila Railroad Manager Col. Salvador Villa submitted to the President a plan for a producers' exchange corporation. The President gave the Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Financing Administration (ACCFA) the go-signal for the establishment of the Central Producers' Exchange.

ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo explained to the President that the establishment of this exchange was in furtherance of the rural reconstruction program of the administration as stated in the President's state-of-the-nation address last Monday. Mondoñedo told the President that the CPE will benefit farm producers in two important ways:

- (1) It will handle the marketing or exchange of surplus products of farmers cooperatives; and
- (2) It will secure through local purchase or importation those production requisites and other needed commodities which can be distributed to cooperatives, which in turn will distribute to farmer-members at the lowest prices possible.

Mondoñedo further explained that the exchange will facilitate the marketing of surplus produce in the hands of cooperatives and thereby assist both producers and consumers. The exchange will have data at all times on the quantity and price of disposable farm products. It will also have information on the requirements of cooperatives as well as of distributors and consumer groups. Thus, if some co-ops have a sugar surplus while needing rice, they send out their sugar to sugar-needy areas and receive rice from the rice surplus regions through this exchange.

The exchange, Mondoñedo stressed, can also act as a central buying agency for cooperatives in the purchase of farm supplies like fertilizers, poultry feeds, clothing materials, farm implements, machinery, sacks, and subsistence supplies. This arrangement will materially reduce the cost to farmers of their farm supplies, thereby lowering at the same time the production cost of agricultural commodities. Cheaper commodities for consumption will improve the standard of living of farm producers and help in the implementation of the government's policy regarding the nationalization of retail trade, Mondoñedo pointed out.

The President received callers until 10 a.m. when he presided over the regular meeting of the Cabinet. During the Cabinet meeting the President ordered the payment of salary differentials to school superintendents and other officials and employees of the Bureau of Public Schools.

The order involves an amount of P151,800 benefitting 53 division superintendents and 24 ranking school officials. The payment of these differentials was by way of implementing Republic Act No. 842, otherwise known as the Public School Salary Act of 1953. Most of the school officials affected by this Act had their salaries increased effective July 1, 1954.

Malacañang said that the President had already taken steps for the further payment of the adjustment of salaries of school teachers requiring some P17 million. The President had already studied the matter with Secretary of Finance

Jaime Hernandez and Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona in order to find means of raising the necessary amount for the payment in part or in full of these salary differentials.

The Cabinet meeting started at 10:30 a.m. and continued up to past 12 noon. Other Cabinet developments follow:

(1) Approved the NASSCO resolution submitted by Economic Coordination Administrator Alfredo Montelibano authorizing the general manager of the NASSCO to negotiate with any banking or lending institution for the establishment of a credit line of not more than P1 million for the operational expenses of the corporation; (The guaranty for the credit line would be the existing reparations tools and equipment of the NASSCO valued at not less than P10 million. OEC Administrator Montelibano informed the Cabinet that the GSIS was willing to purchase P1 million worth of bonds from the RFC which will in turn lend the proceeds to the NASSCO.)

(2) Approved another NASSCO resolution authorizing the NASSCO management to divert for the use of the Iligan Steel Mill, the remaining balance of P335,725.89 out of the P600,000 earmarked for salvage operations under the PI-Japan interim agreement on reparations;

(3) Authorized the Bureau of Telecommunications to allow the NARIC and the Agricultural Tenancy Commission to pay for telegrams sent by these offices at the rate of 50 per cent of the regular telegram charges on the first 10 words; (Regular charges will be applied to the rest of the messages in excess of 10 words.)

(4) Authorized the detail of Justino Lingao and Eriberto Sarmiento, technical men in the NASSCO, to the Marima shipyard in Japan for a period not exceeding six months, financed by FOA, to study and observe the technical phases of the construction of a 16-foot pipeline dredge for the portworks of the Bureau of Public Works, upon the recommendation of Administrator Montelibano;

(5) Declined to authorize as an exception to Executive Order No. 298, the direct purchase of approximately 5,000 tons of reinforcing steel bars from a local company; (The Cabinet directed that the purchase of these 5,000 tons be made through public bidding so as to enable the Department of Public Works and Communications to secure the lowest possible bid.)

(6) Authorized the acquisition by the Department of Public Works and Communications of 4,000 metric tons of emulsified asphalt through public bidding; (The Cabinet felt that such a large quantity of asphalt should not be purchased through negotiated sale but should be advertised for bids so as to secure the best price. The Cabinet also directed that the result of the bidding should be submitted to the Office of the President for its information.)

(7) Authorized the purchase by the Philippine Government of the Graino collection of Filipiniana from its owner in Madrid, Spain, for the Bureau of Public Libraries, at the price of P45,000, upon the recommendation of Vice-President and concurrently Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Garcia; (It was stipulated that this amount, plus the 17 per cent exchange tax on it, would be taken from the available budget savings of the Department of Education. The Cabinet also decided that pending the acquisition of adequate storage facilities for this collection, the Graino collection be temporarily stored in the library of the University of the Philippines.)

(8) Authorized the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources to send abroad five pensionados from one to one and a half years, to undertake studies in different fields of work, upon the recommendation of Secretary Salvador Araneta; and

(9) Authorized the trip to Calcutta, India, of Cesar Desiderio, acting chief of the freight division, transportation department of the Manila Railroad Company, to enable him to attend the seventh course for labor leadership training at the Asian Trade Union College in Calcutta under the sponsorship of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), upon the recommendation of OEC Administrator Alfredo Montelibano. This training will be for a period of three months.

In the afternoon, the President directed Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, chairman of the newly-created Economic Planning Board, to convene the board at the earliest opportunity and have it draft legislation revitalizing the National Economic Council. He told Cuaderno he wanted the board to study the implementation of a recommendation he had made in his state-of-the nation message to Congress “for the revitalization of the National Economic Council as a really effective agency to plan and put into effect the economic development program.”

The President told Cuaderno and Hans Menzi, another board member present at the conference, that while the NEC had done highly creditable work in the past, it had suffered from some organizational defects. He said a major defect was the fact that the majority of the NEC’s membership was composed of Cabinet members. He pointed out that ordinarily, especially under the new administration, a Cabinet member is too burdened with the ordinary affairs of his department to devote ample time and attention to the NEC’s functions.

The President suggested that the Economic Planning Board consider, in studying legislation to strengthen the NEC, the feasibility of placing on the revitalized agency only those persons capable of devoting ample time and attention to economic planning. At the same time, he added, the NEC should of course maintain the closest liaison with other government agencies concerned with economic activities.

January 27.—IN another move to attract foreign capital to the Philippines, the President received American businessmen at his breakfast table this morning. Presidential guests were A. H. Bishop, N. A. Fittinghoff, and C. G. Banks of the Koppel (Philippines), Inc.

After his breakfast conference with the Koppel executives, the President saw the board of directors of the Freedom Company Philippines, a newly-formed civic organization dedicated to fostering democracy in Asia. In the delegation were Col. Agustin Gabriel, chief of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, Jack Wachtel, Col. Bernard Anderson, Col. Ricardo Galang, Juan C. Orendain, and Johnny San Juan.

The President was presented with a certificate of honorary membership in the association which is composed of civic-spirited citizens who had fought in World War II. Col Gabriel, president of the organization, handed the certificate to the Chief Executive.

Sen. Jose C. Zulueta and Reps. Rodolfo Ganzon and Ramon Tabiana also called on the President to request financial aid for public works projects in Iloilo.

Other early callers were Gov. Sergio Osmeña, Jr., and Rep. Nicolas Escario of Cebu, Gov. Wilfredo Panotes and Rep. Fernando Pajarillo of Camarines Norte, Gov. Juan Triviño of Camarines Sur, and Mayor Isidro Escario of Bantayan, Cebu.

Shortly before noon, the President received a delegation composed of general managers of all government corporations who called to pay their respects and renew their pledge of loyalty following the election of officers of the newly organized Government Corporation Managers Association.

Officers elected were General Managers Juan O. Chioco of the NARIC, president; Eligio J. Tavanlar of the NARRA, vice-president; and Gregorio S. Licaros of the GSIS, treasurer. Serafin Lanot of the NARIC was chosen secretary.

Association members who joined the delegation to Malacañang were Benjamin Salvosa of the PHILCOA, Filemon Zablan of the NPC, Victor Lim of Manila Gas Corporation, Salvador T. Villa of the MRR, Fabian Millar of the Sweepstakes Office, Ismael Mathay of the PRISCO, Bernardo P. Abrera of the NASSCO, Manuel Mañosa of the MWD, Osmundo Mondoñedo of the ACCFA, Manuel Turingan of the PHILTOA, and Nicolas Yabut of the Manila Hotel Company.

Louise Nguyen Van Ty, Vietnamese pianist-composer, also called to pay her respects following her recent arrival in Manila to give a series of recitals here. She was accompanied by Alfredo Lozano, impresario, who arranged the recitals for Manila audiences, and Vicente F. Barranco of the *Manila Times*.

During her call, the internationally-known Vietnamese artist presented the President with a recording of two of her compositions; namely *New Year Festival* and *Suite of Poems* with her playing the piano and accompanied by the Lamoureux Symphony Orchestra in Paris under the baton of Henri Tomasi, French conductor. She informed the President that she would start her recital tonight at the U. S. T. conservatory hall.

A delegation of political leaders from Zamboanga del Norte proposed the inclusion in the NP senatorial ticket of three candidates from Mindanao. The group which included Rep. Alberto Ubay, Gov. Felipe Azcuña, and Gonzalo Vasquez, a Manila businessman, explained that at least four senators should represent Mindanao, the center of the government's industrialization program.

The President received callers until 12 noon. Visitors consisted mostly of provincial delegations which sought aid for various projects in their respective localities. Such delegations were those from Davao, headed by Gov. Alejandro Almendras; from Batangas, headed by Rep. Apolinario Apacible; from Marinduque, headed by Rep. Panfilo Manguera and Gov. Felix Fidel Paz; from Bulacan, led by Gov. Alejo S. Santos; and other groups from nearby provinces.

In the afternoon, the President told Liberal Party senators and representatives headed by LP President Eugenio Perez, that he was always ready to hear and redress legitimate grievances of the opposition. The President guaranteed the observance of democratic processes by allowing minority men to march to Malacañang to seek redress for their grievances.

Rep. Perez headed a group consisting of Sens. Quintin Paredes and Macario Peralta, Jr., and Reps. Cornelio T. Villareal and Diosdado Macapagal, who called to ask permission for the holding of a march to Malacañang by the Liberal Party to focus attention on allegedly persecuted LP officials.

Perez said Liberal Party officials had heard that they would be prevented from carrying out their plan. He added that the march would be staged by Liberals who believed that they were being persecuted by the Nacionalista Party, not by President Magsaysay. Perez did not specify the date for the "march to Malacañang." He and his group expressed great satisfaction upon being assured by the President that the Liberals would be guaranteed the democratic processes of airing their grievances.

January 28.—IN a long and sizzling breakfast conference with congressional leaders, which started at 7:24 and ended at 9:45, the President indicated that he would resist the move to amend the Constitution with a view to establishing a semi-parliamentary form of government.

In answering a remark of Sen. Claro M. Recto, its staunchest advocate, in connection with the appointment extended by the President to Senators Jose P. Laurel and Gil J. Puyat as members of the newly created Economic Planning Board, those present gave much significance to the President's remark.

"Mr. President," said Sen. Recto, "this is the cornerstone for the establishment of a semi-parliamentary form of government."

"But certainly not in the Cabinet," the President came back emphatically

The breakfast conference was so hot over the diplomatic fiasco brought about by the premature arrival of Indonesian Ambassador Sukardjo Wirjopranoto that Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently secretary of foreign affairs, got literally burned. The President and congressional leaders disowned the preliminary accord reached by Filipino and Indonesian negotiators on the immigration question.

Senators Recto and Tomas Cabili sparked opposition at the breakfast conference to what had been reported as a treaty between the Philippines and Indonesia. They supported the objections raised by the House foreign affairs committee to the proposed treaty.

The President expressed surprise upon learning of the arrival of the Indonesian ambassador even before the accord had ripened into a treaty. He said he was not consulted by the Vice-President on the latter's invitation to the Indonesian ambassador to come here for the signing of the treaty.

Vice-President Garcia explained that the Philippine-Indonesian agreement on immigration had not been concluded. Contrary to the impression that the treaty was ready for signing, Garcia said it had been passed only by the technical panels of both countries but still was to be discussed by their plenipotentiary panels.

Among those present in the conference were Vice-President Garcia; Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr.; Senators Jose P. Laurel, Claro M. Recto, Gil J. Puyat, Cipriano P. Primicias, Lorenzo M. Tañada, Lorenzo Sumulong, and Tomas Cabili; Speaker Jose Laurel, Jr.; Speaker Protempore Daniel Z. Romualdez; and Reps. Arturo M. Tolentino and Jose Aldeguer.

The breakfast conference, among others, agreed:

- (1) To accept an invitation to participate at the Afro-Asian conference at Bandung, Indonesia, in April;
- (2) To adopt a "watchful waiting" attitude toward the developments in the Formosa area; and
- (3) To defer discussion of the reparations questions until next week. Vice-President Garcia explaining the pros and cons of Philippine participation in the Bandung talks, said that in view of the preponderance of "neutralist" countries attending the conference, coupled with the presence of Communist China, it was possible the confab might serve simply as a forum for the dissemination of neutralist, if not pro-Communist, propaganda. He said there probably would be loud and severe denunciation of "Western imperialism" and "colonialism".

The Vice-President further pointed out that the sponsors of the conference—the Colombo powers—had "snubbed" two countries in Asia with which the Philippines maintained cordial relations. These are Nationalist China and the Republic of Korea. He said these two nations may "misunderstand" Philippine acceptance of an invitation to join the talks. He further said the conference may spawn criticisms of the Manila Pact and the powers which concluded it.

On the other hand, Garcia cited the need of keeping the Philippines posted on all activities and developments in this part of the world, particularly those affecting its neighbors. He also said a Philippine refusal to go to Bandung will only serve to underscore the charge by some Asians that the Philippines was "more Western than Asian." He mentioned the third danger that Philippines non-participation may result in isolating the country from its neighbors. By attending the conference, Garcia pointed out, the Philippines would be in a position to rebut and refute some of the more glaringly unjust accusations that may be made against its friends and allies in the democratic camp.

Finally, the Foreign Affairs Secretary stressed that according to the invitation issued by the conference sponsors, the confab will be merely a discussion gathering and will not bind participating countries to any decisions. Thus, he said, the Philippines could take part in it without getting itself involved in any commitments.

With President Magsaysay himself leading the way, the breakfast conference unanimously voted for Philippine acceptance of the invitation, with the only condition that its delegation be limited to two or three persons in order to minimize expenses. The delegation, it was pointed out, could draw secretarial and clerical help from the Philippine Embassy in Indonesia. Some names to lead the Philippine group were mentioned, but a final choice was withheld for the time being. Among the names brought up were Vice-President Garcia, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Raul S. Manglapus, Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo, and Ambassador Salvador P. Lopez.

After the breakfast conference, the President received Maj. Gen. Leland S. Hobbs, former JUSMAG chief here, who is now with the Colonial Trust Company. Gen. Hobbs will be the personal guest of the President at the Palace for a week.

In the afternoon, the President received Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug and Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff. The two defense officials briefed the President on the Formosa situation and on the Army campaign in Jolo, Sulu, against Moro bandits led by Kamlon.

After the conference with the two defense officials, the President left the Palace for an undisclosed place.

January 29.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay did not receive any visitor this day. He spent a quiet day working on pending state papers. He went over the opinion of Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason on the advisability of resolving the question of Indonesian illegal immigrants through the conclusion of a treaty between the Philippines and Indonesia.

Secretary Tuason upheld the right of the Executive Department to conclude a proposed Philippine-Indonesian treaty which would give 4,500 illegal Indonesian immigrants permanent residence in the Philippines. The opinion was rendered on the request of the President, who sought clarification from the Department of Justice after the House foreign affairs committee objected to the procedure yesterday.

The agreement was the result of negotiations between the Philippines and Indonesian technical panels last year. An Indonesian mission arrived here recently to formally conclude the treaty with a counterpart Philippine panel.

Congressmen claimed that legislative action on the treaty was required since it treated of violation of immigration laws and would affect government action on other aliens entering the country illegally. Tuason ruled that a mere treaty could grant the status of permanent residents to the 4,500 Indonesian illegal immigrants without need of legislative action.

Secretary Tuason asserted that “it is a firmly settled doctrine that a treaty or other international agreement has the same authority and obligatory forces as an act passed by the legislative department.”

At 7:15 in the evening, President and Mrs. Magsaysay boarded the yacht *Pagasa* and sailed to Sangley Point naval base in Cavite, where they were guests of Admiral and Mrs. Hugh Goodwin. Admiral Goodwin is the commander of the U. S. naval forces in the Philippines and commander of U. S. armed forces, Philippines Command.

President Magsaysay, speaking at the dinner, recalled that Admiral Goodwin assumed his command of the U. S. Navy in the Philippines a few months after the new Chief of State moved to Malacañang. In recalling the coincidence, the President said: “I would be very happy and proud if I have done as well in my job during the past year as Admiral Goodwin has done in his.”

In a toast to Admiral Goodwin at the dinner party, the President praised the commander of the U. S. naval forces in the Philippines. He commended Admiral Goodwin “for his quality of leadership,” and said that his presence in the country is “reassuring, especially in the days of tension and danger.”

Referring to the U. S. command here, the President said “our people are grateful to Admiral Goodwin for the firm hand and quality of leadership that he has shown in exercising his command.”

The President said “Admiral Goodwin has proven himself a true commander of goodwill for his country through his friendly ways, his sincerity, and his thoughtfulness.” (Watch for the February issue of the *Gazette* for the full text of the President’s speech.)

The President and the First Lady returned to the Palace late in the evening.

January 30.—ABOUT 9:30 a.m., the President had a long conference with Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol; Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff; and Brig. Gen. Eulogio Balao, vice-chief of staff. The three officials called at Malacañang for a routine report on the general peace-and-order situation in the country.

Incidentally, the President threshed out the intramural dispute between Undersecretary Crisol and Gen. Vargas over their respective proposals to reorganize the Armed Forces, it was learned.

The President spent the rest of the morning in his private study, poring over pending state papers.

About noon, the President ordered Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro to suspend Ruben Villaluz, chief of the Motor Vehicles Office, and to designate Jose S. Samson, acting assistant executive secretary, to act as MVO chief, pending investigation of the charges filed against Villaluz.

The President also decided to create a committee with Malacañang technical assistant Jesus Paredes as chairman to look into the charges filed against the MVO chief. Other members of the committee are Manuel K. Torres, technical assistant in the Department of Public Works and Communications, and Nicolas Cuenca, administrative engineer of the Bureau of Public Highways.

Filed by ranking MVO officials and employees, the charges against Villaluz consist of maladministration, grave abuse of authority, incompetence, and some other less serious charges. Papers on the case have been recently forwarded to Malacañang by Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa.

January 31.—THE President today favorably endorsed the proposed expansion of the facilities of the Court of Industrial Relations to enable it to put up branches in the Visayas and Mindanao to facilitate the settlement of labor-management controversies in those areas. He told a delegation of labor leaders from the Philippine Trade Union Council that he would forward the proposal to the Reorganization Commission which is currently studying plans for a thorough revamp of the government machinery to gear it to the objectives of the present administration.

Accompanied by Sen. Justiniano S. Montano, the delegation which called at Malacañang this morning presented the President with a petition seeking the establishment of CIR branches in the Visayas and Mindanao. Cipriano Malonzo, PTUC chairman who headed the labor group, explained that disposition of cases in these areas was often delayed because of the great distance of these localities to Manila where CIR hearings were being held.

John T. Cooper, manager of the U. S. Veterans Administration in Manila, called to pay his respects prior to his departure for Washington for a month's sojourn there. During his call, Cooper discussed with the President some of the activities of his office. He estimated that about \$100 million were being spent yearly in the form of allowances for widows and children of deceased Filipino veterans, disability pensions, as well as the maintenance of the U. S. V. A. office here.

Cooper, who was scheduled to board a plane for the United States this afternoon, was accompanied to Malacañang by A. W. Tait, U. S. V. A. assistant manager, who will head the Manila office in his absence, and by Thomas Lee, legal assistant.

The President followed a heavy schedule of callers this morning. Visitors were made up mostly of provincial delegations which requested national aid for their respective localities.

The President this morning received the members of the University of the Philippines Committee on Culture who informed him that he would be presented with a medal by the committee for his open and encouraging support of the development of culture in the country.

Dean Tomas Fonacier, head of the committee, said that the medal would be awarded to the Chief Executive because of his love for the fine arts, especially classical music. The President thanked the committee and asked them to find a suitable date for the presentation ceremony.

The President recalled his days in the U. P. when he was a student and Dean Fonacier was his professor in history. He told Dean Fonacier that he (the Dean) greatly deserved the position of dean of the College of Liberal Arts of the State University.

Other members of the committee who saw the President were Dean Patrocinio Valenzuela, Prof. Gabriel A. Bernardo, Prof. Francisco Arcellana, and U. P. Student Council President Elias Lopez.

Rep. Apolinario Apacible accompanied a group of residents of Balayan and Calatagan, Batangas, who requested aid for the public works projects in their towns. The President said he would look for P50,000 from unreleased funds for the construction of feeder roads in Calatagan. Also with the delegation were Mayor Olimpio Sayo of Balayan and members of the municipal councils of the two municipalities.

Rep. Wenceslao Lagumbay accompanied some residents of the second district of Laguna who requested aid for the construction of roads and irrigation systems. The President said he would give them some money after the project was surveyed by the district engineer. He told the delegation that Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa would take care of the irrigation project.

The Chief Executive also received Mrs. Herawati Daih, editor of the *Indonesian Observer*, only English daily in Indonesia. She is also the wife of B. M. Diah, who is a member of the Indonesian Parliament and publisher and editor of *Merdeka*, one of the largest Indonesian newspapers. Mrs. Daih was accompanied by Mrs. Virginia Benitez-Licuanan.

Other callers included Sens. Francisco A. Delgado, Edmundo B. Cea, Emmanuel Pelaez, and Enrique Magalona; Reps. Domocao Alonto of Lanao, Luminog Mangelen of Cotabato, Ombra Amilbangsa of Sulu, Bartolome Cabangbang of Bohol, Ferdinand Marcos of Ilocos Norte, Salvador Encinas of Sorsogon, Ricardo Y. Ladrado of Iloilo, Guillermo Sanchez of Agusan, Felix Fuentebella of Camarines Sur, Celestino Juan of Nueva Ecija, Justino Nuyda of Albay, William Chiongbian of Misamis Occidental, and Jacobo Gonzales of Laguna; and Govs. Vicente M. Quisumbing of Masbate, Salvador Escudero of Sorsogon, Juan F. Trivino of Camarines Sur, and Gedeon Quijano of Misamis Occidental; and Judge Vicente Llanes.

At 5 p.m., the President received the members of the presidential committee which investigated Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson of Manila. The Chief Executive received a 50-page report from the three-man committee composed of Dean Vicente G. Sinco, chairman, and Deputy Auditor General Pedro M. Gimenez and Special Prosecutor Felix Antonio, members.

The committee recommended that Mayor Lacson “be exonerated from the accusation brought against him.” In exonerating Lacson, the committee, however, admonished him to adopt a stricter procedure in approving disbursements from his discretionary funds.

The admonition was issued by the committee in the course of its explanation exculpating Lacson from a charge of allegedly having personal knowledge of the malversation of P1,201.20 from his discretionary funds.

Nine Manila councilors, headed by Board President Francis Yuseco, filed a three-count administrative complaint with 14 specifications against Mayor Lacson. The counts were for dishonesty, misconduct, and oppression in office. The committee, however, dropped three specifications during the course of the hearing.

The President gave Lacson “a clean bill of health shortly after he had received the committee report. He congratulated the members of the committee for their “splendid work.”

The President also authorized the release of the report to the newsmen. He said. “I am sustaining the committee findings.”

Source: National Library of the Philippines

Magsaysay, R. (1955). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51 (1), v-xlvi.

President's Month in Review: February, 1955

Official Month in Review

February 1.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning had another heavy schedule of callers composed mostly of delegations from civic organizations and provincial and municipal officials who requested financial assistance for their respective localities.

This morning, the President had breakfast with Russel G. Smith, vice-president of the Bank of America, who arrived in Manila recently in the course of an inspection tour of branch offices of his bank. Other breakfast guests were Leland Stanford Hobbs, vice-president of the Colonial Trust Company of New York; Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno; RFC Chairman Eduardo Z. Romualdez; PNB President Arsenio Jison; Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro; Jose Paez, chairman of the PNB board of directors; and D. A. Ten Grotenhuis, manager of the Manila branch of the Bank of America.

Mr. Hobbs, former JUSMAG chief in the Philippines and now a retired U.S. Army major general, is currently on a few days' visit in Manila. He is house guest of President and Mrs. Magsaysay at Malacañang during his stay here.

Officers of the Airline Pilots Association of the Philippines presented a petition seeking the repair and improvement of airports throughout the country before the rainy season sets in. The group also requested the employees of the Philippine Air Line be given priority to purchase government-owned PAL stocks if and when the government decides to dispose of any of its holdings to the general public.

Accompanied by Capt. Urbano Caldoza, CAA Administrator, the group included Captains Antonio O'Brien, association president; Manuel Conde, vice-president; Carmelo Ortiz, secretary; Jose Festejo, treasurer; and Rep. Bartolome Cabangbang of Bohol, adviser.

A delegation from Traditional Philippines, a new civic organization formed for the promotion and preservation of good morals, invited the President to be guest speaker at the inauguration of the association to be held sometime in April. This group included Court of Appeals Presiding Justice Pastor M. Endencia, first vice-president; and Jorge Vargas, second vice-president.

Municipal officials from Tiaong, Quezon headed by Mayor Marcial Punzalan, submitted resolutions passed recently by their municipal council requesting financial aid for the construction of barrio roads, irrigation systems, and other public works projects in the municipality. This group was accompanied by Rep. Manuel Enverga.

Another delegation of municipal officials from Rizal also requested aid for their towns. Accompanied by Gov. Wenceslao Pascual, the group included Mayors Cesar H. Paz of San Mateo and Roberto Monroy of Navotas.

The President acted to settle a dispute between farmers in Urdaneta and Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan to ascertain the facts regarding the dispute.

The President was told of the controversy by Mayor Cesario Tigno of Sta. Barbara, who headed a 50-man delegation of farmers from his municipality. The dispute concerns water from the Agno River. Accompanying the delegation was Atty. Alberto de Joya, who represented the interests of the Sta. Barbara farmers.

A group of provincial officials from Davao talked to the President about the proposed distribution of sale of former enemy lands in their province to settlers. Rep. Ismael Veloso and Gov. Alejandro Almendras headed the delegation.

The President received callers from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Among other visitors were Sen. Ruperto Kangleon, Reps. Rodolfo Ganzon of Iloilo, Pio Duran of Albay, Vicente Peralta of Sorsogon, Rogaciano Mercado of Bulacan, Cornelio Villareal of Capiz, and Serafin Salvador of Rizal; Govs. Juan Alberto of Catanduanes, Francisco Infantado

of Mindoro Oriental, Patricio Fernandez of Palawan, and Felipe Azcuna of Zamboanga del Norte; Mayor Pedro Carreon of Meycauayan, Bulacan; and Councilor Justo Ibay of Manila.

The President exonerated today Mariano Villanueva, member of the provincial board of Cavite, of administrative charges of grave abuse of power and serious misconduct for in having allegedly plotted the kidnapping for ransom against Antero Jocson of Naic.

In Administrative Order No. 95, the President ordered Villanueva's immediate reinstatement in office without prejudice to the final outcome of the criminal case against him for kidnapping. He will replace Evaristo Narvaez, acting member of the provincial board.

Villanueva was accused of having allegedly induced and convinced Lino Silang, Mateo Ferenal, Francisco Nobestro, and Tomas Panganiban, to kidnap for ransom Jocson by promising them "protection and immunity" by virtue of his position and power. The administrative investigation was based on the same facts as the criminal case, which is currently pending before the court of first instance of Cavite.

According to Tomas Panganiban, the lone witness in the administrative inquiry, Villanueva and Mayor Baes of Indang were the masterminds in the kidnapping of Jocson which took place on February 27, 1952. However, Panganiban was found to have "involved himself in gross material contradictions" in his testimony at the administrative inquiry.

In a preliminary discussion with his budget and finance advisers in the afternoon, the President ordered a further reduction of the roughly estimated P650 million budget to be submitted for the government's operations during the fiscal year 1955-1956. He discussed with Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona and Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez the estimates of income and expenditures for the next fiscal year. Fernando Dizon, chief of the budget operations division, assisted in the discussion. The President was informed that the estimated expenditures will be P650 million as compared with an estimated income of P650 million. Compared with the current fiscal year's budget of P668 million, next year's expenditures will be P18 million less.

Together with his advisers, the President went over the proposed budget item by item. He ordered that more reductions be made in the proposed budget, especially in connection with proposals to create new offices. He, however, emphasized to Aytona to keep intact the appropriations for the survey and subdivision of public lands. This is in connection with the President's program of reclassification of forest lands to agricultural lands for distribution to settlers.

Prior to his discussion of the budget with his advisers, the President received a report from Louis J. Kroeger, head of the management consulting firm bearing his name which is undertaking a wage and position classification survey in the government, regarding the classification of positions based on the actual duties and responsibilities of the employees occupying various positions. Kroeger recommended the adoption of a pay plan that would eliminate present inequities in pay practices. The principle involved, according to him, was equal pay for equal work. He added that this recommendation will finally result in having the right man in the right job with the right salary.

It was estimated that to effect a full adjustment of salaries according to the Kroeger recommendation would entail some P40 million. The President directed Budget Commissioner Aytona and Secretary Hernandez to find ways and means of implementing this recommendation, even if only partially at the start.

The President is expected to take up anew the budgetary estimates with his Cabinet members during the regular Wednesday Cabinet meeting on February 3.

February 2.—THIS morning, the President had breakfast with members of the Congressional Press Club.

After breakfast, the President held a conference with Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently secretary of foreign affairs, and Ambassador Felino Neri on preparations for the Philippine participation of the forthcoming SEATO conference in Bangkok, Thailand.

Vice-president Garcia informed the President that it would be the first meeting of member countries to implement the terms of their agreement at the Manila Conference of 1954. He said that the military and economic provisions of the agreement would be the main topics for discussion and that the SEATO nations would try to formulate a collective security plan for Southeast Asia.

The vice-president, who will head the Philippine delegation to Bangkok, submitted for presidential approval a tentative list of names of those who will compose the delegation. He said that the conference would last only about four days.

James Hill, special assistant to the attorney general in Washington, called to pay his respects following his recent arrival in Manila in the course of an inspection tour of branch offices of the U. S. Department of Justice in the Pacific area. He was accompanied to Malacañang by Stanley Gilbert, chief of the U.S. Alien Property Office in Manila.

A delegation from the National Pharmaceutical Association of the Philippines headed by Illuminado Cada, president, also called to invite Mrs. Magsaysay, through the President, to be guest of honor at the opening day of their convention to be held in Naga City in April. The delegation was accompanied by Sen. Edmundo B. Cea and Gov. Juan F. Trivino of Camarines Sur.

The president convoked the regular weekly meeting of his Cabinet at 10:30 a.m.

The President with the concurrence of his Cabinet approved the membership of the Philippine delegation to the SEATO conference opening in Bangkok, Thailand, on February 24. The delegation will be under the overall chairmanship of Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, who is concurrently secretary of foreign affairs.

The members are Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff, heading the military panel with the following as members: Brig. Gen. Pelagio A. Cruz, Air Force commanding general; Commodore Jose M. Francisco, flag officer in command of the Navy; and Capt. Rafael Pargas, PN, who is G-3 chief of the AFP general staff.

Leonides S. Virata heads the economical panel with the following members: Counsellor Caesar Lanuza representing the Department of Foreign Affairs; Deputy Governor Andres Castillo, for the Central Bank; Jose Fernandez, for the Association of Private Banks; Eugenio Puyat, for the Philippine Chamber of Commerce.

Other members are Ambassador Jose F. Imperial, Minister Jose Alejandrino, and Pres. Secretary J. V. Cruz. Three others will compose the clerical staff of the delegation.

The President reiterated during the Cabinet meeting his instructions to Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona to continue trimming further the new budget for the fiscal year 1955-1956, which was last reported at P650 million. The President urged, however, that all budgetary aid be given to the Bureau of Lands of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources to enable it to carry on with maximum efficiency its duties of subdividing, classifying, and distributing public lands and issuing public land patents. The President congratulated the head of this office, Director Zoilo Castrillo, who was at the Cabinet meeting, for his "excellent work" during the past year.

The Cabinet approved an appropriation of P30,000 to defray the expenses of a conference of the International Civil Aviation Organization to be held in Manila in October this year.

In the afternoon, the President took determined steps to increase the national rice production aimed at self-sufficiency by:

(1) Ordering Bureau of Plant Industry officials to intensify the propagation of improved rice culture by sending field men to farms in the barrios to teach farmers how to raise 10 cavanese of palay per hectare; and,

(2) Encouraging ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo to pursue more vigorously the ACCFA's policy of requiring its cooperatives to have a demonstration farm in each barrio and to give more financial loans to cooperator farmers who use the "Margate" or any other improved rice culture method in their farms.

The President launched his increased rice production campaign at the model farm lot of the Bureau of Plant Industry in barrio Tabang, Guiguinto, Bulacan, in the presence of Agriculture Undersecretary Jaime Ferrer, Plant Industry Director E. A. Cruz, Bureau of agricultural Extension Director Cayetano Pineda, ACCFA Administrator Mondoñedo, NARIC General Manager Juan O. Chioco, Bureau of Plant Industry Rice Expert Felicísimo Serrano, Bulacan Provincial Agriculturist Pacifico R. Bautista, and other agriculture officials.

The President, accompanied by Undersecretary Ferrer, General Leland Stanford Hobbs, and Major Pat Garcia, left Malacañang at 2:15 p.m. and motored to Guiguinto, Bulacan, arriving at the plant industry model farm lot 3 p.m. He was immediately shown around the farm by plant industry officials.

Serrano explained to the President that during the past 10 years he has been conducting experiments in the model farm lot as to productive capacity of new versatile hybrids under all systems of planting and improved cultural methods. His experiments showed that "Milbuen 8" yielded 120-140 cavanese a hectare; "Buenketan 99", 100-120 cavanese a hectare; and "Milfor 6", 80-100 cavanese a hectare.

Serrano added that these rice hybrids have been bred, selected, tested, and screened not only for high yield, excellent quality, earliness and non-seasonal characteristics, resistance to diseases and pests as well as to inclement weather such as droughts, floods, and strong winds, but also for high milling recovery and head rice and high nutritional value. He said these hybrids have stiff and strong straws and possess non-shattering grains which make them truly the best for all systems of planting, especially mechanization.

The President was much impressed by the fullness of the ripened rice grains in the model farm lot, ready for harvest. He also saw that the rice stalks were tall and luxuriantly growing. He ordered that the field men of the Bureau of Plant Industry be sent out to the barrios to spread this knowledge of improved rice farming which would make the country self-sufficient in its staple food.

The President was glad to learn that out of the 113 warehouses which the ACCFA was building throughout the Philippines, 70 had already been finished. This P3.5 million warehousing project is being financed with the help of FOA funds. On his way back to Manila, the President saw one of these warehouses being constructed in the center of a rice farm just along the national highway in Bigaa, Bulacan.

Mondoñedo told the President that the ACCFA was going to put up modern rice mills in each of the ACCFA warehouse. This, he added, would contribute much to the development of the rice industry and to the success of the small rice farmers. He said that in places where rice harvest was early, the ACCFA warehouses were already full of stored grain.

He mentioned to the President the construction of a P1 million grain elevator in Solano, Nueva Vizcaya, which will be the most modern grain elevator in the Far East.

With the construction of warehouses and with the Produce Exchange handling the distribution of palay, Mondoñedo expressed high hopes that the rice industry would soon fall in Filipino hands.

The President told Mondoñedo to have the ACCFA carry on its present activities, especially with regard to encouraging more rice production in the farms of small barrio farmers who are members of the ACCFA cooperatives.

The presidential party returned to Malacañang about 4 p.m.

February 3.—FOR breakfast guest this morning, the President had Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., who had raised legislative ire on the “junkets issue”. The Speaker was reported to have vowed to support the President’s measures in the House of Representatives.

After his breakfast with the Speaker, the President ordered his aides to fetch Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently secretary of foreign affairs, but they found out that the Vice-President was attending the town fiesta of Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

The President reportedly irked by the absence of the Vice-President, said that the projected goodwill tour in Southeast Asia of the Foreign Affairs Secretary may have to be postponed owing to pressure of work in the Department of Foreign Affairs.

It was originally planned that the Vice-President would visit neighboring countries in Asia after attending the SEATO conference in Bangkok at the end of the month. The President, however, said this morning that the Vice-President may not be able to make it in view of important pressing matters he would have to attend in Manila.

The President instructed Vice-President Garcia to consider certain amendments proposed by congressional members of the Philippine panel negotiating with Indonesian representatives on the immigration issue. In a brief telephone conversation this morning, he asked Garcia to defer the signing of the Philippine-Indonesian agreement until the congressional members who had been unable to attend previous conferences have been given a chance to introduce their proposed amendments to the treaty.

About 8 a.m., the President had a conference with Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff; and Brig. Gen. Eulogio Balao, vice-chief of staff, who reported that piracy in Sulu had been broken and that new drive against Huks in the first and the second military areas in Luzon was in full swing with several Huk field commanders already accounted for.

Regarding charges of a “news blackout” on recent military operations, Undersecretary Crisol explained that the Army lately had found it necessary to keep certain operations under secrecy to achieve maximum results. Planning and development had to be kept secret until concrete results were achieved. This must have been mistaken as a “blackout”, Crisol said.

Eligio J. Tavanlar, general manager of the NARRA, called to request the President for the release of funds for the construction of feeder roads connecting various government settlement projects with the main highway. Tavanlar reported that the NARRA had been moving in settlers at the rate of 1,000 families a month. He said some P100,000 was needed for road construction for the settlements in Tanay, Rizal; Panacan, Palawan; and Corpus, Masbate.

The President started receiving callers at his executive office about 10 a.m. Among his early morning visitors were Sens. Tomas Cabili and Macario Peralta, Jr.

The President today directed Manila Railroad Co. Manager Col. Salvador Villa to give justice to the parents of a 21-year-old girl who was fatally hit by a train on Antipolo street in September last year.

The parents of the girl complained to the President that they were being given only P200 by the MRR as payment for the accidental death of their daughter. The father, Dominador Bermudez, said that his daughter, Emma, was returning home from work when she was accidentally hit by a train on Antipolo Street.

After listening to the father and the mother of the girl, the President wrote a note to Col. Villa directing him to reconsider the case and give justice to them.

The Chief Executive accepted the invitation of the Manila Rotary to deliver a speech before them on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Rotary International on February 23. The Manila Rotarians informed the President that on that day, members of Rotary International all over the world will celebrate the occasion. They also said that recordings of the President's speech will be sent to American Rotary clubs to boost their Liberty Wells fund campaign.

Members of Manila Rotary who called on the President were Eugenio Puyat, club president, Juan b. Carlos, Carlos Palanca, Ambassador Felino Neri, Pete Teodoro, Jack Preysler, Ramon Ordoveza, Conrado Benitez, Roc Adamson, Yao Shiong Shio, Cris Concepcion, Romeo Gustilo, Ike Icasiano, Tony Anton, and Ramon del Rosario.

Members of the Philippine Council of Science and Technology also called on the President and pledged their manpower and resources to the Administration. The pledge, written on a scroll, was handled to the Chief Executive by Eduardo Escobar, president of the Association. Other members present were Gregorio Zara, Felix Maramba, Jose N. Herrera and C. B. Navarro, Jr.

The President ordered the release of P50,000 for the construction of a communal irrigation system in Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija, at the request of a delegation headed by Sto. Domingo Mayor Julian Pascual. The Chief Executive wrote a not to Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa instructing him to release the money from the contingent fund. With the Sto. Domingo delegation were Vice-Mayor Mariano Hongo and Councilor Ceferino de Leon.

Another P25,000 was given by the President to a delegation from Gumaca, Quezon, for the construction of an emergency hospital in the town. Governor Vicente Constantino, who headed the delegation, said that the puericulture center in Gumaca would be converted to an emergency hospital. The delegation was composed of municipal officials and leading women residents in Gumaca.

Thailand Minister of Education Mangkorn Phromyothi paid a courtesy call on the President. Accompanied by Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., the Thailand minister saw the President with Mrs. Phromyothi.

Members of the Philippine Investors Society invited the President to see their exhibits in the NDC compound. The Chief Executive said he would do that. Accompanied by NDC Manager Jose Panganiban, the members who invited the President were Manuel Felizardo and Teodoro Puruganan.

Dr. Augusto Besa, Philippine representative to the sixth congress of the International Society of Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology held last December in Bern, Switzerland, made a formal report to the President on what was taken up at the conference.

Other callers of the President included Reps. Miguel Cuenco of Cebu, Florencio Moreno of Romblon, Guillermo Sanchez of Agusan, and Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur; and Govs. Dominador Chipeco of Laguna, Salvador Escudero of Sorsogon, and Juan Carbonell of La Union.

In order to encourage and promote the use of statistical data in the solution of social and economic problems, President Magsaysay signed this day. Proclamation No. 111, designating the period from February 20 to 26, 1955, as National Statistic Week.

The President pointed out that it was "necessary to fully inform the public of the benefits to be derived from a program of statistical promotion and development and to disseminate applications of statistics to the service of human welfare.

With the end in view of supporting the Philippine Statistical Association, Inc., in its task of fostering statistics and its applications, the President enjoined all government offices and instrumentalities, private entities and individuals, and especially schools and various chambers of commerce and professional organizations and societies to devote one day during National Statistic week to a program of education "for the promotion of knowledge of facts and figures as a healthy basis for knowing our social and economic status and progress."

The President also signed today Administrative Order No. 96, dismissing administrative charges against Lieut. Col. Victor H. Dizon of the Philippine Air Force for irregularities allegedly committed in the repair and seal-coating of a runway at the Manila International Airport while he was civil aeronautics administrator.

The complainant, Cirilo S. Damian, had manifested in writing that he was no longer interested in the further prosecution of the case. Damian's letter was considered by the investigating committee as a withdrawal of the charge.

The presidential committee headed by Jesus Avancena of the Solicitor General's Office, with Eliodoro de la Rosa and Luis Yap as members, declared that there was "no valid or proper ground to continue the case." The committee also declared it had "found nothing damaging against the respondent despite the extensive testimony of the complaint."

The President named today two new members of the committee recently created to investigate administrative charges against Ruben A. Villaluz, suspended chief of the Motor Vehicles Office. The two members are Adriano Lumonted and Juan E. Divina, both from the Office of the President, replacing Manuel K. Torres and Nivolas Cuenca, both from the Department of Public Works and Communications.

Torres, a technical assistant in the department, and Cuenca, administrative engineer of the Bureau of Public Highways, were disqualified from the committee after a Bicol delegation headed by Sen. Edmundo B. Cea objected to their inclusion in the investigating committee on grounds of "bias and prejudice."

In a statement issued this day, the President said "I welcome the decision of the United States Government clarifying its stand on the Formosa question." He said this policy of firmness "will achieve its avowed purpose of deterring further acts of Communist aggression in this area." (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 681-682, for the full text of the President's statement)

February 4.—A CONFERENCE of coalition leaders, presided by the President Magsaysay, agreed in a breakfast caucus this morning to coordinate the efforts of the Government Reorganization Commission and the Economic Planning Board towards blueprinting a centralized economic planning agency.

The decision was reached after Sen. Cipriano Primicias, member of a reorganization commission "task force" studying the creation of an economic planning office, informed the meeting that this body was well on the way towards completing its study and recommendations. The "task force" includes Hermenegildo B. Reyes, chairman and Rep. Arturo M. Tolentino, another member.

Primicias said this group will be ready within two weeks to submit its study and recommendations. He said that he had in mind a centralized planning office that will completely supplant the National Economic Council.

Sen. Gil J. Puyat, member of the Economic Planning Board, pointed out that this body as also engaged in drawing up blueprints for a centralized economic planning office, with particular emphasis on the possibility of reorganizing and revitalizing the National Economic Council. He recalled that President Magsaysay had entrusted this assignment to the planning board.

Under these circumstances, President Magsaysay said the two bodies should coordinate and integrate their respective studies. Sen. Primicias promised to furnish a copy of his group's report to Sen. Puyat for the Economic Planning Board.

Sen. Jose P. Laurel urged in this connection that any new economic planning body to be organized should be composed of members who can devote ample time and attention to their work. He expressed himself against recruiting men already occupying high positions of responsibility in the government into this planning office.

Laurel's sentiments echoed the instructions given by President Magsaysay to the Economic Planning Board when he instructed it to study the reorganization of the National Economic Council. At that time, the President had suggested that Cabinet members be excluded from the new body owing to their inability to devote ample time and attention to economic planning.

Present at the conference were Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia, Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., Sen. Cipriano Primicias, Claro M. Recto, Jose p. Laurel, Sr., Francisco Delgado, Emmanuel Pelaez, and Gil J. Puyat; Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Reps. Daniel Romualdez, Arturo M. Tolentino, Miguel Cuenco, and Ismael Veloso; Sens. Fernando Lopez, Tomas Cabili, and Lorenzo Sumulong; and Rep. Jose. M. Aldeguer.

The President also gave instructions to Vice-President Garcia to implement the decision of the foreign service board recommending the dismissal from the service of Hortencio Brillantes, consul in Seattle, for misconduct in office.

The President later received a delegation from the La Salle alumni Association which invited him to be the guest of honor at the alumni homecoming on March 6. The President accepted the invitation.

Headed by Francisco Aguinaldo, president, the delegation included Ramon V. del Rosario, Soc Rodrigo, Dindo Gonzales, Dan Aguinaldo, and Luis Jose.

The President told a press conference in the afternoon that Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo will lead the Philippine delegation to the Afro-Asian conference in Bandung, Indonesia, provided Romulo's rank was "acceptable" to the conference.

The President tacked on this condition after explaining that the foreign office was still verifying a report that the Bandung talks will be strictly on a ministerial level, meaning only prime ministers or foreign ministers will be allowed to attend.

Otherwise, President Magsaysay said Romulo accepted his offer for him to head the Philippine group to Bandung during a telephone conversation between them two days ago. The Chief Executive said Ambassador Felino Neri will assist Romulo. He added there will be no other delegates and whatever secretarial help the two may need can be obtained from the Philippine mission in Jakarta.

At the press conference, the President also:

1. Said Romulo was in constant touch with him on Formosa developments;
2. Reiterated that the Philippines welcomed U.S. determination to defend Formosa;
3. Made clear that his administration had not incurred any operational deficit; and
4. Announced that the results of Secretary of Justice Pedro Tuason's review of the case of Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson and three Manila councilors will be submitted by next week.

The President recalled that at a recent Council of Leaders meeting where the Bandung conference was discussed, Vice-President and concurrently foreign Affairs Secretary Garcia mentioned that there was a move to keep the talks on a ministerial level. At the same meeting, Romulo was endorsed to head the Philippine delegation provided his rank was acceptable. The President said a definite inquiry will be made on this point.

The Chief Executive also told the press conference that Romulo was reporting regularly to him on developments on the Formosa situation. He declined to divulge, however, what the nature of these reports was.

Referring to the statement he had previously issued expressing Philippine support of U.S. efforts to deter further Communist aggression in this part of the world, the President said the security of Formosa was inseparably maintain a hands-off attitude. He said Formosa in Communist hands will constitute a direct threat to the Philippines.

The President also challenged the impression created by a morning newspaper report to the effect that his administration had incurred a deficit of P162-million-plus” due to irregular, unnecessary, excessive, or extravagant expenditures.” The account was based on the auditor general’s report to Malacañang and to Congress on the country’s financial position during the fiscal year 1953-54.

The President, seconded by Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, who was also present at the press conference, pointed out that the newspaper account, for some reason or other, seemed to have deliberately omitted the clarification made by the auditor general to the effect that the P162 million deficit had been incurred entirely by the Quirino administration and that the Magsaysay administration in fact had realized an operational surplus of P10-million-plus during its first six months in office from January to June, 1953. These six months constitute one-half of the fiscal year under review.

Aytona said the following extract from the auditor general’s report was left out:

“In justice to the present administration, however, this Office has endeavored to determine the status of the income and expenditures of the National Government under the General Fund during the periods from July 1 to December 31, 1953, the last six months of the past administration, and from January 1 to June 30, 1954, the beginning of the present administration. The figures compiled by this Office from the trial balances and statements prepared by various accounting officers show that the General Fund had incurred an operational deficit of P50,660,071.49 during the first semester of the fiscal year under review (Quirino Administration) and realized an operational surplus of P10,597,956.98 during the second semester (Magsaysay administration), thus resulting in a total operational deficit of P40,062,114.51 for the whole fiscal year. Pursuant to Republic Act. No. 1193, the deficit incurred during the first semester was blocked and the collections during the second semester were used to cover expenditures during the same period in pursuance of appropriations previously authorized by law, instead of applying a portion of said collections to first wipe out the aforesaid deficit. This step was believed necessary to avoid paralyzation of the essential activities of the government which would have certainly resulted had the allotment system provided under Section 9 of the Republic Act No. 906 been adhered to.”

Aytona said this clearly showed that the Magsaysay administration had nothing to do with the deficit. He said the exclusion of this vital part of the auditor general’s report was “unfair.”

The President started in the evening working on his budget message which he will submit to Congress on Tuesday (February 8) to accompany the budgetary estimates for the 1955-56 fiscal year.

The President, after holding a press conference with Malacañang newspapermen called Budget Commissioner Aytona to his anteroom and discussed with him the draft of the budget message.

Earlier at the press conference, it was revealed by Commissioner Aytona that the already pruned P650 million budgetary estimate had been further reduced by some P2 million upon previous order of the President. The President told Aytona that he wanted some reductions made on the P648 million budget.

The Budget commissioner assured that on instructions of the President, the budget for the Bureau of Lands had been untouched to enable that Bureau to carry on with maximum efficiency the subdivision, reclassification, and distribution of public lands and the issuance of land patents to the settlers. He said that the pruning knife had been used on new positions.

Aytona said that his staff was working overtime attending to the printing of the budget, which is expected to run some 1,000 pages. He said that everything would be ready for the President to submit his budget message to Congress with the itemized budget on February 8.

February 5.—THE President continued working today on his budget message and pored over the budgetary estimates item by item. He would submit the budget to Congress on Tuesday, February 8. The President slashed appropriations for the Chief Executive's contingent fund and ordered the elimination of newly created positions. He also directed that trimmings to be made in operating expenses be added to items for rural development.

As the President was busy working on the budget, his only morning callers, aside from Defense Secretary Sotero B. Cabahug and Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, were Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Raul S. Manglapus with whom he discussed the proposed budget of the Department of Foreign Affairs and some pending matters in the department. The President also called for Ambassador Felino Neri, who briefed him on the latest developments on various phases of the nation's foreign relations.

Upon the recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole, the President granted conditional pardon to three prisoners.

In the afternoon, the President kept working the budget until evening.

In the evening, the President said that he would reduce the membership of the Philippine delegation to the SEATO conference opening in Bangkok, Thailand, on February 24 to the minimum. He also said that he would call a meeting of the National Security Council before the Philippine delegation was rather large and that he would like to reduce the membership to the minimum. He did not indicate who among those included in the original list would be dropped.

The Chief Executive decided to call a meeting of the National Security Council after conferring this morning with Defense Secretary and Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff. It is expected that the Council would take up details regarding the military matters that would be taken up by the Philippine delegation to the SEATO conference. The NSC is the highest policy making body for the country's security and defense.

With the President as the presiding chairman, the National Security Council is composed of the following members: Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia, Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta, Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa, Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevosio, Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug, Health Secretary Paulino Garcia, Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, Economic Coordination Administrator Alfredo Montelibano;

Sen. Claro M. Recto, chairman, Senate Committee on National Defense and Security; Rep. Numeriano Babao, chairman House Committee on National Defense; Lieut Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff; Hilario F. Hilario, chairman, Philippine Veterans Board; Rep. Arturo M. Tolentino; and Col. Leoncio Tan as secretary.

February 6.—AFTER breakfast, the President continued working on the budget with Budget Commissioner Dominador R. Aytona.

They reviewed the items in the proposed general appropriations act in an effort to pinpoint expendable items and bring down the budget to an "irreducible minimum."

After going over the proposed budgetary estimates, the President worked on his budget message which will be sent to Congress with the budget the next day. he was assisted by Commissioner Aytona in preparing the final draft of his message. They worked together the whole day although it was Sunday, Christian day of rest.

The president will recommend in his budget message to Congress the gradual adoption of the recommendations of the Wage and Position Classification Office (WAPCO) whose target is to correct the obvious inequalities in the salaries of government employees. He will also reiterate his recommendation in his state-of-the-nation message to pay the salary adjustments for teachers.

The President will report to Congress the steps taken by the Administration to implement Republic Act No. 992, otherwise known as the Revised Budget Act, enacted by Congress in its last session, which was the necessary enabling act for the adoption of the performance budget. The President had proposed in his budget message last year the adoption of the performance type budget.

In its report to the President a few days ago, the WAPCO had recommended a fair, just and equitable pay plan for all government employees. The WAPCO had found out that the salaries of government employees are generally low.

The WAPCO had further informed the President that there was disparity in the rates of salaries of government employees performing similar duties and functions and having the same responsibilities. This, the report pointed out, was true not only of officials and employees working in the same office but also of those in different bureaus and offices.

To correct these inequalities and to be fair to the employees, the President will recommend the gradual adoption of the WAPCO recommendations. As the full adjustment will require the sum of P40 million, including the amount for the adjustment of teachers' salaries which the Government is not yet in a position to do, the President nevertheless will urge Congress to take action to implement it gradually. In due time the President will submit to Congress a special message recommending the adjustment of salaries of employees, including those of teachers, which he mentioned in his recent state-of-the-nation message.

With regard to the adoption of the performance budget, the President will inform Congress that its adoption would be a forward step of the Administration in bringing about sound business management in the government. The Chief Executive will explain that the government's financial program under this system will be expressed in terms of the work or services to be performed and the cost of accomplishing these services; hence, the term "performance budget."

As full details of financial requirements of work programs of agencies are provided in the performance budget, Congress will then be in a better position to determine the kind and extent and cost of services, analyze the soundness of expenditures of the various programs of the government, and control funds in relations to services rendered.

Congressional control over the execution of policy requires action that will assure strict adherence to established policy in an effective and economical manner. In the past, Congress had no basis for appropriate action if services rendered were not commensurate with the expenditures of funds because no specific results were expected. The President will point out that under the performance budgeting, the concrete results are known and the basis for action is established. Congress will thus gain, rather than lose, control of fiscal policies through performance budgeting.

President Magsaysay will inform Congress that, complying with the provisions of the budget act, 12 agencies representing 10 executive departments would adopt performance budgets for the fiscal year 1955-1956, as follows:

1. Bureau of Civil Service
2. Bureau of Lands
3. Bureau of Internal Revenue
4. Land of Registration Commission
5. Bureau of Telecommunications
6. Bureau of Public Libraries

7. Bureau of Labor
8. Industrial Safety Engineering Division of the Department of Labor
9. Wage Administration Service
10. Armed Forces of the Philippines
11. Bureau of Health
12. Bureau of Commerce

The President will inform Congress that next fiscal year, a complete performance-type budget for all the agencies of the national government will be presented. He will explain that performance budgeting is designed to bring sound, responsible modern business management to the government and that the administration is determined to bring such result.

February 7.—IN the morning, the president received Sen. Jose P. Laurel, who accompanied a large delegation from the barrio of San Nicolas, Taal, Batangas. The group presented a petition requesting the conversion on barrio into municipality. Also with the delegation was Gov. Feliciano Leviste.

The President promised the delegation that he would study their request and that he would issue an order for the conversion of the barrio into a municipality if it would be found out that the barrio was financially self-sufficient.

Another matter taken up by Governor Leviste with the President was the improvement of roads in some towns of Batangas. The President wrote a note to Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa telling him to rush the road projects in Batangas and to give three artesian wells to the Batangas governor for three barrios.

After the Batangas delegation the President received Maj. Gen. Charles Kilbourne (retired), who paid a courtesy call. The General, who had been responsible for the building of Corregidor into an island fortress, recalled his days in the Philippines before World War II. Accompanying Gen. Kilbourne were Maj. Albert H. Doe and Lt. John W. Calhoun.

The President directed Secretary Orosa to rush the road constructions in Atimonan, Quezon, upon the request of Rep. Leon Guinto, Jr., and Mayor Lorenzo Reyes and the members of the Atimonan municipal council.

Acting Governor Conrado Estrella of Pangasinan requested from the President the release of 50 per cent of Pangasinan's pre-war deposit in the Philippine National Bank for the construction and improvement of barrio roads in his province. He said that all the money would be used for the purpose.

Other early presidential callers were Augusto Franciso of Manila, Isidro Kintanar of Cebu, and Mateo Pecson of Masbate; Govs. Vicente Constantino of Quezon and Leo Fernandez of Sulu; and Drs. R. G. Peralta and Herminio Velarda.

The Chief Executive received a long list of callers this day composed mostly of provincial delegations which requested financial aid for the improvement of airports in their respective localities.

Other callers included Reps. Felix Fuentebella of Camarines Sur, Gaudencio Abordo of Palawan, Domingo Veloso and Carlos Tan of Leyte, and Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz; Govs. Juan Alberto of Catanduanes, Calixto O. Zaldivar of Antique, Ciriaco Abad of Batanes, and Pacencio Ysalina of Misamis Oriental; and Philippine Ambassador to Indonesia Jose Fuentebella.

Shortly before noon today, the President had a conference with Sen. Francisco A. Delgado, chairman of the Senate Committee of Foreign Affairs, who called at Malacañang to inform the Chief Executive that the SEATO Treaty would be ratified by the Senate tomorrow morning. present at the conference which was held at the President's executive office about 11:45 a.m., was Ambassador Felino Neri.

President Magsaysay will submit to Congress tomorrow the government's proposed expenditures for the fiscal year 1955-56 amounting to P648,200,000 as against an estimated income of P652,100,000 for the same fiscal year, Malacañang announced this day.

The proposed budget calls for P561,700,000 representing operating expenditures and P86,500,000 representing capital expenditures, such as investments and public works. Compared with the P668,000,000 budget submitted by the President last year, the proposed expenditures for the next fiscal year will be about P20,000,000 less.

Budget Commissioner Dominador R. Aytona said that with these estimates of receipts and expenditures for the fiscal year 1955-56 there would be a probable surplus of P3,900,000. Aytona said that the estimated income for the fiscal year amounting to P652,100,000 will consist of P647,600,000 of ordinary income and P4,500,000 of extraordinary income. He added that this statement income includes revenue from taxation which is expected to be bigger by about P45,300,000 than of last year.

In the budget which the President will submit to Congress, the ordinary income of P647,600,000 exceeds the operating expenses of P561,700,000 by P85,900,000. This surplus is earmarked for capital expenditures, Aytona said.

February 8.—THE President this morning submitted to Congress the proposed budget for 1955-56 amounting to P648,192,130. He signed the budget message at 10:50 a.m., in his anteroom, in the presence of Budget Commissioner Dominador R. Aytona; Fernando Dizon, chief of the budget operations division; and Alfredo Marchadesch, group supervisor. Immediately afterwards, Commissioner Aytona delivered the budget to the secretaries of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The budget is printed in two volume: Vol. I Containing the President's budget message and the itemized budget consisting of 1,108 pages; and Vol. II containing the performance budgets of 12 selected agencies, consisting of 288 pages.

The proposed budget as compared with the estimated income for the same fiscal year amounting to P652,121,860 will mean a probable surplus of P3,926,730.

Budget Commissioner Aytona said that compared with the P668,269,860 budget submitted by the President last year and the P649,830,759.53 authorized by Congress for the same period, the President's proposed budget will be P20,074,730 and P1,635,629.63 less, respectively. He said that the estimated income for the fiscal year amounting to P652,121,860 will consist of P647,751,860 of ordinary income and P4,550,000 of extraordinary income.

In the proposed budget P561,714,110 will be for the current operating expenditures and P86,481,020 will be for capital expenditures such as investments and public works,

After signing his budget message, the President went to the residence of Sen. Claro M. Recto to felicitate him personally on his birthday. The President presented the Senator with a birthday cake, a replica of a thick book on the Philippine Constitution.

The President said today he would recommend to Congress the early approval of house Bill No. 2562, appropriating P100,000 for the implementation of Republic Act No. 1124, creating the National Board of Education.

Republic Act No. 1124, passed in the first regular session of the Third Congress, authorized the appropriation of P100,000 for the operation of the office. House Bill No. 2562 appropriating P100,000 for the implementation of the

National Board of Education law, was authored by Rep. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz and is now pending in Congress.

The President expressed concern over the inactivity of the National Board of Education. In a conference with Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., the Chief Executive was informed that the board was not yet functioning owing to lack of funds.

Hernandez said that nothing could be done about implementing the law unless the necessary fund was appropriated for it. He added that he had looked into all possible fund sources in his department but there was no extra available fund for the purpose.

The board, charged with the duty of formulating general educational policies and directing the educational interests of the nation is composed of 15 members with the Secretary of Education as the chairman. Other members of the board are the chairman of the Committee on Education of the Senate, the chairman of the Committee on Education of the House of representatives, the director of public schools, the director of private schools, the president of the University of the Philippines, the chairman of the UNESCO, and a representative each from labor, industry or management, agriculture, National Catholic Educational Association, Mohammedan or other cultural minority, Philippine Association of Christian Schools, Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities, and the teaching profession.

Early in the evening, the president received surviving members of the Constitutional Convention at a cocktail party at the Palace.

Among those present at the cocktail party were Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia; Senators Jose P. Laurel, Jose C. Locsin, and Edmundo B. Cea; former Sen. Camilo Osias; Reps. Diosdado Macapagal and Jose J. Roy; Defense Secretary Sotero B. Cabahug and Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez; Justices Querube C. Makalintal; and Conrado V. Sanchez; Judges Jesus Perez, Bonifacio Ysip, Demetrio B. Encarnacion, and Juan Bocar; Fiscal Milagros German; Prof. Enrique M. Fernando; former Justice Manuel Lim; Abelardo Subido, and PLA President Arturo Alafriz.

Later in the evening, the President spoke at the Constitution Day dinner the Philippine Lawyers Association gave at the Manila Hotel. The affair climaxed the celebration of the approval of the Charter. A nationwide radio hookup carried the speech.

In his speech, President Magsaysay said that the Constitution, as it is today, is “nearly as perfect as any human effort can fashion” and “exactly as our people wished it to be.”

He declared, “Let alone as designed by its authors, it will grow with time and experience and will gain added strength and vitality with the passing years. Twenty years is certainly too short a time to judge with finality the virtue of this great instrument of government.

Thus did the President express himself against the move in congress to amend the Constitution toward the adoption here of a semi-parliamentary form of government. He hammered home his implicit opposition to the amendment move by quoting Sen. Claro M. Recto, president of the Constitutional Convention which approved the Charter 20 years ago today, February 8, 1935.

The President said: “In the language of the President of the convention, ‘all the merits upon which all the legitimate aspirations of the Filipino people may be brought to function’ are embodied in this instrument.” (See *Historical Papers and Documents* pp. 682-685, for the full text of the President’s address)

President Magsaysay arrived at the Manila Hotel Fiesta Pavilion for the PLA dinner at 8:30 p.m. He was escorted to the presidential table at which were seated Arturo Alafriz, PLA president, Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, Sen. Recto, Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., and Chief Justice Ricardo Paras of the Supreme Court.

Alafriz introduced the guest speaker at 9 p.m. A sedate and obviously serious audience listened to President Magsaysay's 10-minute speech which began at 9:05 and ended at 9:15 amid restrained applause.

The President left the hotel at 9:50 p.m. The other guests followed suit.

February 9.—DURING this morning's breakfast conference with Sen. Jose P. Laurel and Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., the President announced a proposal to coordinate the work of the National Board of Education and the Economic Planning Board in an effort to stress economic education in public and private schools. Ambassador Felino Neri was also present at the conference.

During the Cabinet meeting which began at 10:20 a.m., the President directed Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro to take stock and report on the work accomplished by all the presidential committee which had been created to be different tasks, including investigations of alleged anomalies.

The President told Secretary Castro that he would like to have a report on the work done by each committee for future legislative and executive implementation. He said that those committees whose work has already been accomplished will be dissolved.

In this connection, the President directed that the contracts entered into between the Philippine-American Life Insurance Co. and the Morelos Company with the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation be referred to Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason for study as regards the legality of the contracts. This matter was taken up as a result of Public Works Secretary and PHHC General Manager Vicente Orosa's statement that the Dollete committee, which had investigated the PHHC in connection with its contract with Morelos Co., had questioned the legality of the contract between Morelos and PHHC.

The President also inquired into the progress of the work of the Government Survey and Reorganization Commission from Budget Commissioner Dominador Ayona, commission chairman. The President expressed the hope that the commission would soon finish its work in studying the reorganization of the government and that it would be able to submit its recommendation at the earliest possible time.

The President was informed by Defense Secretary Cabahug that with regard to the proposed recommendation for the reorganization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the original recommendations had already been reconciled and submitted by the defense secretary to the reorganization commission. He said that this fiscal recommendation reiterated the civilian supremacy over the armed forces, adding that under this plan the Armed Forces will be under the direction, control, and supervision of the secretary of national defense but that the chief of staff will exercise command over the Armed Forces. The President said that in the Armed Forces the supremacy of civilian authority has always been practiced and observed ever since before.

The President also told commissioner Aytona that he had directed Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, chairman of the Economic planning Board, to sit down with the task force of the Government Survey and Reorganization Commission to coordinate the efforts of the two bodies towards blueprinting a centralized economic planning agency.

The President was informed by Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia that the appointment of Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo as chief Philippine delegate to the Afro-Asian conference to Bandung, Indonesia, was still under consideration, in view of the fact that other governments sponsoring the conference were being consulted as to the acceptability of Ambassador Romulo, who does not hold the rank of Prime Minister or Foreign Minister.

It will be remembered that recently the President told a press conference that Ambassador Romulo would head the Philippine delegation if his rank was "acceptable" to the conference, as there were reports the Bandung talks would be strictly on a ministerial level.

Other developments in the Cabinet follow:

(1) Upon recommendation of Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug, the Cabinet authorized the Philippine participation in the United Nations regional cartographic conference for Asia and the Far East which will be held at Mussoorie, India, from February 15 to 28, 1955.

Lt. Commander Sergio M. Maulawin, chief of the operations branch, and Mario Manansala, chief of the cartographic division, both of the Bureau of Coast and Geodetic Survey, will be the representatives of the Philippine government of the conference.

(2) Upon recommendation of the administrator of economic coordination, the Cabinet authorized a bond issue of P5 million to complete the financing of the Maria Cristina hydroelectric and fertilizer plant. The proceeds of this bond will be transferred by way of reimbursement to the funds of the Ambuklao hydroelectric project, from which said P5 million had been temporarily withdrawn in favor of the completion of the Maria Cristina hydroelectric and fertilizer plant.

(3) Upon recommendation of Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta, the Cabinet approved the transfer of all irrigation projects now administered by the Bureau of Lands to the Bureau of Public works, except the irrigation system in the friar lands, the administration and maintenance of which are by law vested in the Bureau of Lands. The Cabinet also requested that in the case of the friar lands irrigation system, a bill be prepared transferring complete jurisdiction over this irrigation system to the Bureau of Public Works.

The President said that the National Board of Education and the Economic Planning Board, will work together in an effort to map out an educational policy which will turn out students well trained in the economic field.

The President disclosed the plan following his recommendation to Congress for the approval of a bill appropriating P100,000 for the implementation of the National Board of Education law. He said that the apparent lack of good men in the field of economics can be solved by having the two boards synchronize their plans in training good economists among the students.

After the breakfast conference, the President received the joint committee of the sugar planters and millers. The committee asked the Chief executive for a message for their coming convention on March 1. They also requested a reduction of freight rates.

The President expressed elation when informed that it was only during his administration that the sugar planters and millers get together amicably. Accompanied by Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma and OEC Administrator Alfredo Montelibano, those who called on the President were Jose Ma. Gomez, Salvador Benedicto, Jerry Rodriguez, and Jose Mirasol, representing the planters; and Manuel Elizalde, Gerald Wilkinson, Ernesto Escaler, and Stewart Jameson, representing the millers.

Also received by the President were members of the Federation of dental Practitioners of the Philippines who made him honorary president of their association. Cayetano Estaquio, president of the association, presented the plaque of honorary presidency to the Chief Executive.

Other callers included Senators Tomas Cabili, Quintin Paredes, and other Emmanuel Pelaez, and Reps. Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo and Pio Duran of Albay.

In the afternoon, the President received His Excellency Choudhri Khaliquzzaman as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of Pakistan to the Philippines at a ceremony held at the Malacañang ceremonial hall.

The presentation of the credentials ceremony took place at 3:30 p.m. Minister Khaliquzzaman and M. H. Baig, Pakistan trade commissioner, were accompanied by foreign Affairs Chief Protocol Officer Jose S. Estrella and Col. Napoleon D. Valeriano.

The presentation of credentials ceremony took place at 3:30 p.m. Minister received 20 Indonesian mobile officers who have completed their three and one-half months training under various units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The Indonesian officers were headed by Col. Machammad Josin, deputy chief of the Indonesian mobile brigade, and accompanied by Minister Tjokroadisumarto and Lt. Col. Abdul Latif, military attaché.

The President in his informal talk with the Indonesian officers expressed the hope that the experience they have acquired while training with the AFP units would be useful to them in the future work in their country.

The training undergone by the Indonesian officers in the Philippines was the first of a series of activities being undertaken by the Southeast Asia Military Affairs unit of the Department of National Defense headed by Col. Mamerto Montemayor. These activities are geared toward strengthening the friendly relations among the Southeast Asian neighbor countries of the Philippines.

Present during the call of the Indonesian officers were defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP Chief of staff, Brig. Gen. Alfonso Arellano, Brig. Gen. Florencio Selga, Col. Isagani Campo, Col. Benjamin Santillan, and Lieut. Col. Rafael Iletto, who supervised the training of the Indonesian officers.

The President entertained his guests at a merienda.

Other afternoon callers of the President were Agriculture Undersecretary Jaime Ferrer and Fisheries Director Deogracias Villadolid, who presented to the President samples of fried and fresh tilapia, and tilapia canned in tomato sauce—raised from the bureau's tilapia pond—and other food products manufactured by the bureau.

The President also received Sens. Macario Peralta and Gil Puyat and George Peabody and Jose Carpio of the Philippine Association.

In the evening, the President formally exonerated Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson of Manila of administrative charges on 11 counts filed against him by nine Manila councilors. The Chief Executive cleared Mayor Lacson after he had received the report of Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason endorsing the verdict of the Sinco committee which recommended exoneration.

In clearing the city mayor, Secretary Tuason said that the findings and conclusions of the Sinco report "were correct." He pointed out, however, in his report that "it is hardly possible that (Sofronio) Nunez did not apprise his chief of the transfer of the (Gestetner) articles and of the accounts before or after the transfer was effected."

Secretary Tuason said, however, that "there being no bad faith and no showing of prejudice to the city, I am inclined to agree to the dismissal of this charge."

The charge referred to the alleged malversation by the mayor of the amount of P123.73 for the purchase of supplies from the Gestetner. Ltd., while he was a congressman, which was paid later with city funds.

In recommending the approval of the Sinco report, Secretary Tuason said that "the rest of the charges hinge largely on the credibility of the witnesses."

He added: "The members of the committee who saw the witnesses testify were in the most advantageous positions to appraise their truthfulness and sincerity. I do not think that the committee committed any substantial mistake in their evaluation of the facts adduced in the case."

Secretary Tuason found out that the charges, except the two cases of malversation, are, "besides being old, are not sufficient gravity to warrant removal or suspension of the mayor, even if the charges had been established."

February 10.—THIS morning, the president directed OEC Administrator Alfredo Montelibano to reduce the price of cement. The Chief Executive ordered the reduction following reports that the price of cement was high.

The Chief Executive followed a heavy schedule of callers composed mostly of provincial and civic delegations. Gov. Dominador Chipeco of Laguna headed a delegation from the towns of Calauan and Victoria and asked for financial aid for the construction of rural roads.

Rep. Erasmo Cruz accompanied a delegation of Parent Teachers Association from Pulilan, Bulacan, who requested financial aid for the repair of barrio schoolhouses. Heading the PTA delegation from Pulilan was Simeon Reyes, president.

Financial aid was also asked by Rep. Ombra Amilbangsa and Gov. Leon Fernandez of Sulu, for the building of a provincial high school in their province.

A large group of Taal, Batangas, residents saw the President and followed up their request of converting the barrio of San Nicolas into a municipality. The President told the delegation, accompanied by Rep. Apolinario Apacible, that their request was under study.

The President was given a gift of Moro bow and arrow and hats by Datu Madbeg Kamba of Cotabato, who came with a delegation accompanied by Rep. Luminog Mangelen. The president thanked the datu who was in colorful Moro costume.

Another large provincial delegation received by the President came from Mindoro Oriental and accompanied by Gov. Francisco Infantado. The delegation requested financial and materials aid for the public works projects in their province.

Other callers of the President included Reps. Emilio Cortez of Pampanga, Gaudencio Abordo of Palawan, Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz, Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur, Manuel Cases of La Union, and Angel Castano of Manila, and Mrs. Oswald Lord.

The President also received this morning a delegation of officials of the *Arena Theater* who offered their facilities in helping carry out the President's barrio improvement program through a presentation of appropriate and significant plays in the towns and barrios. The President said he was glad to know of this kind of pioneering work and promised his moral backing support.

The delegation was headed by Dr. Severino Montano accompanied by Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro. Other members of the delegation were Mrs. Natividad Crame-Rogers, Mrs. Feliza Lardizabal, Miss Josephina Phodaca, Miss Caroline Fosdick, Philippine Normal College President Macario Naval, and Simeon Agustin.

Dr. Montano informed the President of the work which the *Arena Theater* has been trying to do in relation to improving town and barrio life.

He said that, organized a year and eight months ago, the *Arena Theater* has started an extension service for the Philippine Normal College by holding community center projects presenting the best of Filipino plays that reflect the problems of the Filipinos.

Upon the request of the group, the President directed executive Secretary Castro to prepare a memorandum to be sent to all governors and superintendents of schools requesting their help and cooperation in selecting qualified persons to come for training in *Arena Theater* work in the Philippine Normal College. The group said that this step is necessary in order to provide enough personnel who would carry on the program throughout the country.

In the afternoon, the President presided over the meeting of the National Security Council held at the Council of State room in Malacañang. The meeting started at 3:10 p.m. and lasted until 4:20 p.m.

The council which is the highest advisory body to the President on defense and security matters was given a general briefing by the AFP general staff on the situation in the Far East, including the Formosa area, and the new

developments in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) and their implications on the security of the Philippines.

The council also discussed policy guidance to be followed by the members of the Philippine delegation to the forthcoming SEATO conference in Bangkok, Thailand. The chairman and the head of the military panel of the delegation are also members of the NSC.

Aside from the President who presided over the meeting, the members present were: Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia, Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Finance Secretary Salvador Araneta, Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa, Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevos, Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug, Health Secretary Paulino Garcia, Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, Economic Coordination Administrator Alfredo Montelibano.

Rep. Numeriano Babao, chairman House Committee on National Defense; Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff; Hilario F. Hilario chairman, Philippine Veterans Board; Rep. Arturo M. Tolentino, and Col. Leoncio S. Tan, secretary of the Council. Sen. Claro M. Recto, chairman, Senate Committee on National Defense and Security, could not attend the meeting.

Also present at the conference were Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, Brig. Gen. Pelagio Cruz, Brig. Gen. Alfonso Arellano, Capt. Rafael Pargas (PN), Col. Ismael Lapuz, Col. Manuel Salientes, Col. Nicanor Jimenez.

February 11.—KEPT busy by a backlog of pending papers, the President received only a few callers this day.

Samuel Broers, president of the Firestone International Company, called on the Chief Executive with J. N. Vaughan, Far Eastern Manager of the company. The President told the visiting American business executive that the government would help in the proposed establishment here of a tire factory by Firestone International Company.

Later the President received Gov. Wenceslao Pascual of Rizal who headed a group of residents from Navotas who asked for an artesian well. With Gov. Pascual were some Metropolitan Water district employees who paid their respects to the Chief Executive.

Among the few callers of the President were Speaker Pro-tempore Daniel Z. Romualdez, Sen. Macario Peralta, Jr., and Mrs. Telly Albert Zulueta.

The President reiterated in the evening his previous statement that he would reduce the number of the Philippine delegation to the SEATO conference in Bangkok, Thailand. It was learned that it was not likely the conference would discuss extensively economic matters during the conference and, therefore, it would not be necessary to send a big panel to tackle the economic phase of the discussion.

The President said further that he planned also to reduce the number of the military panel by about two. He said that he would confer with Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia on Monday, February 14, for the final details regarding the composition of the Philippine delegation.

Press Secretary J. V. Cruz, this evening issued the following statement: "It is not true, as reported in a section of the press, that President Magsaysay 'has agreed to restudy the explosive Formosa issue. The President had expressed himself clearly and forthrightly on the Formosa question in a statement issued sometime ago (Thursday, February 3). He stands by that statement."

As the President announced through his secretary that he was standing pat on his Formosa policy statement, the House Representatives swept aside earlier sentiment against the policy statement and gave it its "unconditional endorsement."

By unanimous vote, the House set aside pending business on the calendar at 9 p.m. and set for discussion Resolution No. 59, prepared by the committee on foreign affairs, supporting President Magsaysay's stand.

Voting on the resolution was also unanimous, except for minor amendments in phraseology. The resolution now goes to the Senate for concurrence.

February 12.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay enplaned for his hometown, Castillejos, Zambales, for a week-end visit. He left early in the morning with his aide, Maj. Pat. Garcia. The Chief Executive had not returned up to press time in the evening.

February 13.—THE President returned to Manila only this morning from a week-end trip to Castillejos. He did not receive callers in the Palace in the morning, as he studied some pending state papers that needed immediate action.

In the afternoon, the President received a delegation of student officers of the Student Councils Association of the Philippines. The student leaders presented a resolution giving their "unqualified and vigorous support" to the President for his stand on the Formosa question, and urging the Senate to follow the House of representatives in endorsing the President's stand.

The SCAP is an organization of student councils from 54 colleges and universities all over the Philippines. Headed by Leonardo Ignacio, Jr., SCAP president, the delegation informed the president that the resolution had been approved unanimously at their meeting held at the Manuel L. Quezon Educational Institution building on R. Hidalgo Street earlier in the afternoon.

The President was glad over the interest students of different universities and colleges had shown in the vital questions which confront the leaders of the country.

February 14.—CALLERS of the President this day cheered him with their pledge to support his stand placing the Philippines "squarely behind" the United States on the Formosa question.

A stream of delegations from the provinces, particularly from Catanduanes, Isabela, Cagayan, Ilocos Sur, and Pangasinan, presented resolutions backing the President's decision to commit the Philippines to the American "fight-if-we-must" policy.

Political leaders from Isabela, Cagayan, Ilocos Sur, led by Gov. Felix T. Caro of Isabela, hailed the President's support of the United States policy.

Gov. Juan Alberto of Catanduanes told the President that "hesitancy on our part will be constructed by the communists as a sign of dissension and division in the democratic front." Alberto said: "Any delay in the approval by the Senate of the resolution endorsing the President's stand on Formosa question will only play into the hands of the Communists propaganda machine."

Acting Gov. Conrado Estrella of Pangasinan also presented resolutions of the provincial board and the Pangasinan Mayors League backing up the President.

Early this morning, the President announced his plan to put up a settlement project in Sulu for surrendering Moro outlaws in order to induce them to return to the fold of the law and lead constructive lives. He asked a Moro delegation headed by Rep. Ombra Amilbangsa of Sulu and Princess Tarhata Kiram to help him draft plans to convert Mohammedan outlaws into productive farmers.

With the delegation was Takulong Iki, former notorious bandit leader who surrendered when President Magsaysay was still secretary of national defense. Iki is now a progressive farmer.

Princess Bai Matabay Plang of Cotabato led another Moro delegation which requested additional public lands and funds for the expansion of the Mindanao Institute of Technology.

Gov. Eliseo Quirino of Ilocos Sur called to inform the President of a convention of tobacco growers to be held in Vigan from April 29 to May 3. Quirino made arrangements for the conventionists, representing some 10 provinces in Northern Luzon, to call at Malacañang after the meeting.

The Ilocos Sur governor also informed the President about the construction of a permanent model barrio exhibit at the site of the recent exposition in Vigan. The model barrio features prefabricated schoolhouses, artesian wells, irrigation systems, barrio roads, and other rural improvement projects of the government.

Officers of the Philippine Confederation of Professional Organizations, a confederation of various technical groups in the country, called to pay their respects and to offer the services of their organization in the implementation of different beneficial programs of the Administration.

Headed by Dr. Ramon R. Angeles, confederation president, the group included Carlos E. Da Silva, 1st vice-president; Iluminado M. Cada, 2nd vice-president; Benjamin R. Salonga, 3rd vice-president; Felipe Cruz, secretary; Annie Sand, auditor; Eduardo Escobar and Gregorio Estrada, members of the board of governors.

Henry G. Keith and Eric E. Ward, outgoing and incoming representatives, respectively, of the United Nations Technical Assistance Board in the Philippines, paid a courtesy call. Keith bade goodbye to the President prior to his return to the United States after completing his two-year tour of duty here.

Dr. William D. Stroud, former president of the American Heart Association and professor of cardiology in the graduate school of medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, also called to pay his respects. Accompanied by Mrs. Stroud, the heart specialist is on a few days' visit here on the invitation of Filipino medical practitioners. The visiting couple was accompanied to Malacañang by Health Secretary Paulino Garcia, Dr. Antonio Samia, president of the Philippines Heart Association, Mrs. Samia, Drs. Jose Barcelona, Conrado David, and Jesus B. Nolasco.

Delegations from Majayjay, Laguna, headed by Mayor Roman Vito, and from Lopez, Quezon, headed by Mayor Ceferino M. Osuna, requested financial help for the construction and repair of roads, municipal buildings, and barrio schools in their respective localities. The delegations were accompanied by Reps. Wenceslao Lagumbay of Laguna and Leon Guinto, Jr., of Quezon.

Other callers this morning were Senator Justiniano S. Montano; Reps. Domingo Veloso of Leyte, Arturo M. Tolentino of Manila, and Jose R. Nuguid of Bataan; and Govs. Rafael Lazatin of Pampanga and Conrado Estrella of Pangasinan.

Late morning callers of the President included a delegation of mayors from Nueva Vizcaya who appealed to the Chief Executive for aid for public works projects in their province. The delegation was headed by Rep. Leonardo Perez and Gov. Jose Madarang.

Members of the Philippines Contractors Association requested the President's presence during their coming convention from March 4 to 6. The request was made by Domingo Poblete, president of the association. The group was accompanied by Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa.

In the afternoon, the President appealed to the people to "do more, give more, sacrifice more for the Red Cross this year" in his remarks formally launching the annual fund campaign of the Philippine National Red Cross for 1955. The ceremonies were held at Malacañang social hall.

The President kicked off the campaign with a personal contribution of P1,000 which he handed to Secretary of Finance Jaime Hernandez, chairman of the 1955 Red Cross fund campaign.

The opening of the 1955 Red Cross fund campaign was attended by a large group including Cabinet members, solons, and members of the diplomatic corps. The program started at 4 p.m., and ended exactly 30 minutes later.

The President came down to the social hall at exactly 4 p.m. and proceeded to the rostrum where he was flanked by Vice-President and Mrs. Carlos P. Garcia, Health Secretary Paulino J. Garcia, and Finance secretary Jaime Hernandez.

The President said: "One of the tests of a democracy is the capacity of its people to act together to meet common needs and common danger. One of the marks of a nation's greatness is its willingness and ability to look after its most helpless citizens at their time of greatest needs."

A pin was awarded to the Chief Executive for his "support wholeheartedly given to Red Cross ideals, in word and indeed, as a leader and a citizen." It was pinned by Mrs. Magsaysay. Health Secretary Garcia said the award was presented to the President as a token of the PNRC's gratitude and appreciation.

Praising the Red Cross for its humanitarian services, the President said that "in war and in peace, the Red Cross has been a shining symbol of mercy to the victims of calamities." He added that in every emergency, the PNRC had measured up to the highest traditions of the Red Cross movement and had also increased its health and welfare services for all elements of the population. He expressed belief that the appeal of the PNRC for help would receive the warm response that is deserved from the people.

After the program, the President closeted himself and worked on state papers.

February 15.—AT a breakfast conference this morning, the President discussed with seven representatives some legislative measures and the attacks hurled by Rep. Mario Bengzon of Pangasinan on the floor of the House of Representatives against the Chief Executive. All seven solons belittled Bengzon's attacks.

With the President at the breakfast conference were Reps. Justino Nuyda of Albay, Lorenzo Teves of Negros Oriental, Ismael Veloso of Davao, Eulogio Rodriguez, Jr., of Rizal, Marciano Lim of Samar, Francisco Ortega of La Union, and Emilio Tible of Camarines Sur.

Non-partisan endorsement of President Magsaysay's stand on the Formosa issue continued to mount, as messages from various civic organizations all over the country assuring him of wholehearted support were received at Malacañang today.

Former Senator Salipada Pendatum, wiring from Cotabato, informed the President that the Moros believed that Communist invasion of Formosa would "inevitably involve the Philippines physically." He told the Chief Executive that Mindanao Moslems are behind him on the Formosa question.

Mariano Villanueva, president of a college in Naic, Cavite, also wired that the board of trustees, faculty members, and student body of the college and high school departments of his institution were rallying behind the Chief Executive on the Formosa issue.

A delegation composed of officers of the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Association called at Malacañang this noon to present a resolution endorsing the President's Formosa policy. The group included Gen. Mateo Capinpin, Col. Lauro Hernandez, Col. Jose Arambulo, Col. Daniel Victoria, Ramon Bagatsing, and Jose Castillo, Jr.

Another large delegation from the Bicol Varsitarians, an organization of students from 10 Bicol provinces studying in Manila universities and colleges, also presented a similar resolution advocating a strong Formosa national policy. The delegation included Napoleno Lichauco, president; Conchita Ramirez Adamos, 1st vice-president; Teofilo Santiago, 2nd vice-president; Lilia Beronilla, secretary; Joseph Avante, treasurer; erasmu Ampongan, business manager, Emilio Tanay, assistant business manager; and Antonio Gonzales, PRO.

The President, this morning received Foreign Minister George K. C. Yeh of Nationalist China, who called to pay his respects following his arrival in Manila enroute back to Taipeh from the United States.

“I have been looking forward to meeting you, Mr. President,” Minister Yeh said as he shook the President’s hand. He recounted that shortly before he left Washington, he had told President Eisenhower that he was returning to Taipeh by way of Manila to pay his respects to President Magsaysay.

President Eisenhower was said to have replied: “That’s one man you want to know!”

Accompanied by Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia and Minister Chou Shu-kai, charge d’affaires of the Chinese embassy in Manila, Minister Yeh arrived in Malacañang at exactly 10:30 a.m. After inspecting an honor guard formed by a detachment of presidential guards at the Palace front door, the Minister was shown to the President’s study where the Chief Executive received him.

Minister Yeh stayed at the President’s study for about 20 minutes during which they had “off-the-record” discussions on matters of common interest to the Philippines and Nationalist China. The President instructed Vice-President Garcia, concurrently secretary of foreign affairs, to discuss further with the visiting Chinese minister the various matters taken up during the talks.

The conference was concluded at 10:55 a.m. with the President offering a toast for the continued well-being of free China. Minister Yeh responded with another toast for the continued success and prosperity of the Filipino nation.

The Chinese foreign minister arrived in Manila early this morning from the United States, where he attended the UN General Assembly and concluded a mutual assistance pact with the U.S. Government. He will be guest of President Magsaysay at breakfast at Malacañang tomorrow morning. He is scheduled to proceed to Taipeh Friday, February 18.

The President this morning expressed his desire to sell the 60 per cent share of the stocks of the Manila Gas Corporation owned by the Government pursuant to his administration’s policy of stepping out of any enterprise where private interests are willing to take over.

The President signified his desire to sell the government shares in the course of a conference with Christopher Coughlin, president of the Island Gas and electric company of New York, which owns the remaining 40 per cent of the Manila Gas stocks.

Coughlin, who arrived in Manila recently in the course of a tour of Asian countries, recommended the extension of the current 50-year franchise of the Manila Gas Corporation which is due to expire within seven years. He said an extension of at least 25 years was necessary if his company was to invest more capital for the proposed expansion of the corporation in order to meet growing public requirement. He also said his company was willing to sell its Manila Gas shares if the Government was willing to buy it. President Magsaysay responded by expressing his own willingness to dispose of the government shares to any interested person or entity.

The Chief executive received callers from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

Provincial delegations included those of mayors Primitiva Pasta of Buenavista Quezon; Natalio Alagré of San Vicente, Camarines Norte and Aurelio V. Linsangan of Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija. These delegations which sought financial assistance for various projects in their respective localities were accompanied by Rep. Leon Guinto, Jr., of Quezon, Rep. Fernando Pajarillo of Camarines Norte, and Rep. Celestino Juan and Acting Gov. Antonio Corpuz of Nueva Ecija.

Among the callers were Reps. Conrado Morente of Mindoro Oriental and Vicente L. Peralta of Sorsogon.

In the afternoon, President Magsaysay received in his study room Sen. Tomas Cabili and Dr. James Yen, head of the PRRM. Dr. Yen explained to the President details of the work of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement and how this organization would achieve its objective. Under the PRRM, the Philippines will eventually become the “demonstration nation” in Asia to show how rural improvement can be finally realized through the actual participation of the people themselves living in the barrios.

Another presidential caller was Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP Chief of Staff, who briefed the President on the Jolo situation.

February 16.—EARLY this morning, the President honored Foreign Minister George K. C. Yeh of Nationalist China with a breakfast in Malacañang. Also present were U.S. Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance, Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro, Press Secretary J. V. Cruz, Rep. Miguel Cuenco of Cebu, Ambassador Felino Neri, Chinese Minister Chou Shukai, Yu Khe Thai, Peter Lim, Albino Sycip, Yao Shiong Shio, Alfonso Sycip, Go Puan Seng and Sy En.

Not feeling well, the President left Malacañang in mid morning for a drive out of the city. He did not preside over the Cabinet meeting.

At 12:15 p.m., the President turned up at the Nichols airbase and boarded a plane for Pangasinan to inaugurate the Agno River irrigation project.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet this morning approved the sending of a Philippine delegation to Tokyo, Japan, to attend the 7th session of the Committee on Industry and Trade to be held from March 15 to 24, and the 11th session of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFFE) from March 28 to April 7. The sending of the delegation has been recommended by the Philippine committee on ECAFFE matters. It was presented for Cabinet decision by Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma.

Commerce Undersecretary Perfecto E. Laguio was designated chairman of the delegation with Agustin Mangila of the Department of Foreign Affairs and one representative each from the Central Bank, the National Economic Council, and the Philippine diplomatic mission in Tokyo, as members.

The Cabinet meeting, which was presided over by Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, also took up various other routine matters. All actions taken, however, were held tentative pending final consultation with the President. The regular weekly Cabinet meeting was held from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

The President's Cessna plane landed on a private landing field in Carmen, a barrio of Rosales, Pangasinan. Luis Gonzales, son-in-law of former President Quirino, owns the landing field.

With the President were Sens. Cipriano Primicias and Alejo Mabanag, Rep. Justino Benito, Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa and Maj. Pat Garcia, presidential aide.

Government officials and school officials led by acting Gov. Conrado Estrella, welcomed the President upon his arrival in Carmen. Also in Pangasinan to meet the president were Manuel (Dindo) Gonzales, staunch supporter of the President, Marvin Gray, Bob Stewart, and Manila Councilor Justo Ibay.

The President inaugurated the P12 million Agno River irrigation project in San Manuel, Pangasinan, before an estimated crowd of 5,000 cheering residents of the province. The President set off dynamite explosion to start the ambitious waterworks projects intended to serve Central Luzon provinces.

Returning to the Palace at 5:30 p.m., the President conferred with Sen. Jose P. Laurel on the latter's appeal for a compromise on the Formosa resolution. The two conferred for an hour.

After the conference, Press Secretary J. V. Cruz said President Magsaysay advised Sen. Laurel that he (the President) was standing pat on the position that he had taken regarding the Formosa situation. The President, the Malacañang spokesman added, also expressed the hope that the Senate would extend its unqualified endorsement to this stand, in the same manner that the house of Representatives had done.

Laurel arrived in Malacañang at 7 p.m. and left an hour later. The President and he conferred at the ante-room to the President's quarters.

February 17.—RESOLUTIONS and other forms of expression of support for his stand on the Formosa question swamped the President this day from provincial delegations and government officials. The President worked on some state papers before receiving callers who were so many that it was almost 1 p.m. when he finished receiving the last of them.

Gov. Decodorso Rosales of Samar, president of the League of Provincial Governors and City Mayors, this day led to avalanche of unqualified supporters to President Magsaysay's policy on Formosa.

In a strongly worded telegram to the President, Gov. Rosales said in part: "In matters affecting fundamentally our national security, the Filipino people should with courage define their stand. If we really stand for democracy as we do in our ideological fight against communism, we should without hesitation defend it frankly, openly, and aggressively."

Gov. Rosales was among the 19 provincial governors, 14 city mayors, three provincial boards, and the Provincial Editors Association of the Philippines, in addition to those who had previously wired the President expressing their unqualified support to the President's policy on the Formosa question.

The President this day followed a heavy schedule of callers composed mostly of provincial delegations. Large groups of farmers from Pangasinan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, and Cavite saw the Chief Executive.

Among the problems decided by the President was the complaint of the farmers from Cavite who said that many of their ricefields were being converted to fishponds. The President ordered Assistant Executive Secretary Mariano Yenke, Jr., to send a note to Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta to stop the conversion.

The President also promised farmers from Cavite, Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija, and Bulacan that they should not worry about irrigation because they would all have irrigation systems in due time. The farmers said they needed irrigation so that they could plant and harvest twice a year.

The Chief Executive also ordered Assistant Executive Secretary Yenke to tell Deogracias Villadolid, director of fisheries, to stop placing stones around the shorelines in Bulacan. The Bulacan fishermen complained that they could not use their bancas because of the stones.

The farmers and fishermen gathered in the Malacañang ground at the north side of the Executive Office building where the President met them. The Chief Executive had to leave his callers at the Palace in order to receive them.

Reps. Ricardo Ladrado, Pedro Trono, Rodolfo Ganzon, and Jose Aldeguer, and Gov. Mariano Peñaflorida of Iloilo saw the President and expressed their united support of the President's stand on the Formosa issue. They also informed him that the NP and DP in Iloilo had already reached a friendly understanding. Rep. Ganzon is the only Nacionalista representative in Iloilo.

Reps. Emilio Cortez and Diosdado Macapagal of Pampanga requested the President for material aid for the victims of the recent fire in Guagua.

The Chief Executive telephoned Social welfare Administrator Pacita Madrigal-Warns and instructed her to send aid to the fire victims.

Another provincial delegation from Bohol requested the President to help facilitate work on their public works projects. The delegation was composed of Mayor Salustiano Baura and municipal council. They were accompanied to Malacañang by Rep. Bartolome Cabangbang.

The President also received the officers of the newly-formed Nationalization Movement of the Philippines. Among those who called were E. V. Mendoza, president; Mateo Herrera, vice-president; and German P. Neri, secretary.

Roger McBride, son of the senior editor of the Reader's Digest, paid his respects to the President. Young McBride has been in Manila studying political law under a Fulbright scholarship for six months. He handed to the President a letter from his father. McBride will soon return to the United States.

Other callers included Reps. Domingo Veloso of Leyte, Ombra Amilbansa of Sulu, Pio Duran of Albay, Felix Fuentebella of Camarines Sur, Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz, and Carlos Tan of Leyte, and Gov. Leon Fernandez of Sulu.

A large delegation from several shore barrios from Cavite came to Malacañang today to ask President Magsaysay to intercede in their behalf with the Bureau of Fisheries, which they claimed had allowed the establishment of fish ponds on their old fishing grounds and thus deprived them of their major means of livelihood. The General Trias delegation was accompanied by Cavite Gov. Dominador Mangubat, Rep. Jose T. Cajulis, and Bienvenido Jamir, Vice-Mayor of Kawit, Cavite.

According to some of the delegation members, the Bureau of Fisheries had granted concessions to private individuals to convert their fishing grounds into private fish ponds. This action of the bureau had adversely affected their main industry and deprived them of their means of livelihood, according to Rep. Cajulis. Most of the fishermen adversely affected came from the shore barrios of Kawit, Bacoar and Tanza.

The delegation, numbering about 700, mostly fishermen, came to see the President to ask for his help. Incidentally, many of them bore placards stating their support of the President's stand on the Formosa situation. Some of the placards read: "Does Recto want to give away his country to the communists on a silver platter?" "No time for jealousies and intrigues; support RM's stand on Formosa." "The Philippines has never belonged to the Senate and never will; senators and farmers own the P. I. only because they are Filipinos but no senator can simply give away the P.I. to the communist."

Rep. Cajulis said that the Bureau of Lands had previously declared the fishing grounds as "unfit places for fishponds." He said that this was apparently disregarded because of the present existence of fishing ponds "owned by rich private individuals."

Malacañang today received from party directorates and municipal councils of several towns in Pangasinan various resolutions and commendatory letters expressing their "full and unqualified" support of President Magsaysay and his administration.

The nine towns, which incidentally belong to Rep. Mario Bengzon's district, assured the President that they were all "solidly behind him" in his policies and decisions. The resolutions and letters came from the towns of Agno, Alaminos, Bolinao, Bugallon, Burgos, Dasol, Infant, Labrador and Sual.

In line with the Administration's policy of appointing officials of the same party to permanent government vacancies, President Magsaysay today named Carlos B. Magalona, a Liberal Party man, as member of the provincial board of Negros Occidental. The President expressed his appreciation and gratitude to Benjamin Gaston, whom Magalona replaces, for the invaluable services he had rendered as provincial board member.

Malacañang today denied the claim of Mayor Macario Asistio of Caloocan, Rizal, that a technical assistant of the President had suggested that he organize a confidential squad to curd mulcting activities in his town.

Technical Assistant Sofronio Quimson said he did not offer this suggestion to Mayor Asistio. He said that what he had suggested was that the mayor “assign some of his trusted policemen” to unearth reported anomalies among members of the Caloocan police force. Quimson made this statement after having read a news item in an afternoon paper stating that the mayor had “turned down a Palace plan” to appoint confidential squads not directly under the police department.

Quimson said he wanted to rectify this report because he was fully aware that the mayor has no power to organize such confidential agents independent of the police department.

February 18.—THE President today approved the final list of those who will compose the Philippine delegation to the forthcoming SEATO conference in Bangkok, Thailand.

During his conference this morning with Vice-president Carlos P. Garcia, Ambassador Felino Neri, and Sen. Francisco Delgado and Rep. Miguel Cuenco, chairmen of the Senate and the House committee on foreign affairs, respectively, the President again went over the list of membership of the delegation with the view to reducing it to a minimum for reasons of economy.

The delegation, as finally approved by the President, will be composed of Vice-President Garcia, concurrently secretary of foreign affairs, as chairman, and ten members who had been classified into three main groups; namely military, economic and political.

Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff, will head the military group with Gen. Pelagio Cruz, airforce chief; Capt. Rafael Pargas (PN), G-3 chief of the general staff; and Capt. Carlos J. Albert (PN), military attaché in Washington, D.C., as members.

Leonides Virata was retained head of the economic group with Jose Fernandez of the association of private banks and Eugenio Puyat of the Philippine Chamber of Industries as members. It was emphasized that the three members of the economic panel would join the delegation at no expense to the government.

Ambassador to Japan, Jose F. Imperial and Minister Jose Alejandrino will compose the political panel. Alejandrino is head of the Philippine legation in Bangkok, the site of the conference.

Press Secretary J. V. Cruz and 10 Manila newspapermen will represent the Philippine press.

During the conference, the President instructed Ambassador Neri to furnish Senator Delgado and Rep. Cuenco with copies of the President’s directive to the delegation for consideration of their respective committees. The directive which contains the Philippines’ position on various matters expected to be taken up at the Bangkok conference, had been based on views exchanged at the National Security Council meeting last week and on reports of the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C., on deliberations of the SEATO working group in the American capital.

The working group is composed of representatives of the eight SEATO powers. These representatives had been meeting regularly in Washington for the last few months to plan the implementation of the Manila Pact at the forthcoming Bangkok conference.

The Philippines had been represented in the working group by Minister Raul T. Leuterio, charge d’affaires of the Philippine legation in Paris, minister-Counselor Mauro Calingo, and Capt. Carlos Albert (PN), military attaché.

The President’s conference with the Vice-President and the chairmen of the Senate and house committees on foreign affairs lasted from 9 to 10 a.m.

The Chief executive did not receive any other caller. He spent the morning in conference with various Malacañang assistants who consulted him on pending matters.

President Magsaysay and members of the Economic Planning Board laid down today the broad principles to underlie the creation of a centralized economic planning agency that will direct the economic life of the country.

It was agreed to seek the abolition of existing agencies engaged in economic planning like the National Economic Council and the Economic Planning Board itself, and create in their place only one powerful office to be charged with the formulation and execution of an overall economic program.

The conference, held over luncheon at Malacañang, agreed that the head of this office shall become a member of the Cabinet. It was also agreed that those serving on this body shall devote their full time to their duties, except for some ex officio members who will have to sit on the projected planning board owing to their connections with vital aspects of the country's economy.

Members of the Economic Planning Board present at the conference were Gov. Miguel Cuaderno of the Central Bank, chairman, Secretary of finance Jaime Hernandez, Sen. Jose P. Laurel, Sen. Gil J. Puyat, Rep. Jose J. Roy, Rep. Godofredo P. Ramos, NEC Chairman Felimon C. Rodriguez, Toribio Teodoro, Hans Menzi, Hermenegildo B. Reyes, and Teodoro Valencia.

The conference decided to coordinate studies towards the creation of a centralized economic planning office being undertaken by the Economic Planning Board and a "task force" of the government reorganization commission chairmanned by Reyes. While their respective studies agreed on most points, there was apparent disagreement on whether the projected agency should undertake merely planning or both the planning and execution of an economic program.

In the evening, the President approved the report of the Alquinto committee recommending the acquisition of the Barretto lot at Tanduay and Padilla Streets for the construction of an elementary school in Manila's San Miguel district.

The President's action settled the controversy between the city mayor and the municipal board of Manila over the selection of the school site.

In this controversy, the mayor had claimed that the Opisso property at Uli-uli, near the Pasig River, contiguous to the north-northeast side of the Malacañang grounds, was more suitable for the purpose while the municipal board had claimed that the Barretto lot at the corner of Tanduay and Padilla Streets was more suitable for the purpose. The President directed Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro to implement his decision immediately.

The President had created a presidential committee composed of National Planning Commission Director Anselmo T. Alquino as chairman and City School Superintendent Antonio M. Maceda and Isabelo Tupas as members to study this controversy. The committee reported that it had taken full cognizance not only of the tangible factors in the selection of the school site but also of such intangible factors which a school needs and on which it thrives, namely, community interest and support.

In evaluating the two sites from the point of view of accessibility, healthfulness, relative freedom from traffic hazards, comparative freedom from fires, ground elevation, freedom from industries in the immediate vicinity, and nuisances like noise, dust, odor, and smoke, the committee said that the Opisso lot had an edge over the Barretto property. As regards the price, the committee said that the Opisso property from present computations might cost cheaper but there was the possibility that the price might be unreasonably jacked up.

The committee, however, pointed out that although the Opisso property had the edge over the Barretto property from the point of view of tangible factors, these should not be taken as all-conclusive. The committee stressed that there was one basic point which the statistical information did not reveal: the people in and around the Barretto lot showed to the committee their interest to have a school within their immediate surroundings, which was not manifested by the people in the vicinity of the Opisso lot. The committee presumed that this lack of community feeling in the Opisso lot might be due to the fact that it had for its immediate surroundings the propertied class whose children go to private schools.

The committee said: "A school needs and thrives on community interest and support, and for this reason the Baretto property has an overwhelming advantage over the Opisso property."

Regarding the price of the lots, the report said: "It is admitted that the price of the Baretto property is excessive, as it costs much more than the Opisso property. However, it is the sense of the committee that to all the factors herein considered, one of them being the overwhelming desire of the people concerned."

February 19.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning received top defense officials who were reported to have been at loggerheads with each other as a result of the Kamlon "fiasco." Defense Secretary Sotero B. Cabahug and Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff, rushed to Malacañang to deny reports that there was discord between them.

Both defense officials blamed another ranking defense official for allegedly fomenting discord in the Army. They said that the foul air in Camp Murphy was being fanned by the said ranking official in the Army. This official was identified as the same man who had attempted to drive a cleavage in the Armed Forces sometime ago.

The President said after conferring with the two defense officials that he would look into the actuations of the ranking officials being blamed for the "dissension reports." He did not receive any other caller this day.

In the afternoon, the President left for an undisclosed place. He was accompanied by his airforce aide, Maj. Emilio Borromeo.

February 20.—AFTER breakfast this morning, the President left Malacañang with his airforce aide. It was learned that he went to a southern suburb for some hunting.

A few minutes after the President had left, newsmen and other Malacañang officials stormed the Malacañang golf links, which the President had previously ordered closed. The President lifted the ban this morning to give way to the much-vaunted tournament between the Malacañang Golf Association and the "divot-diggers" of the National Press Club.

Shortly before noon, newsmen proceeded to the Malacañang social hall for the luncheon which the President gave in their honor. The President did not join his guests at luncheon because he decided to leave the Palace after hearing the charge of "intervention" in the keen and heated rivalry which characterized the election of officers of the National Press Club.

The President returned to the Palace in the evening after the newsmen's elections were over.

The Malacañang press office announced in the evening that "the President has not in any way changed his stand" in the face of Sen. Claro M. Recto's "warmongering" charge.

Press Secretary J.V. Cruz said in a statement he issued this evening: "The assertion that President Magsaysay, by his statement on Formosa, had clearly intended to declare war on Communist China, is fantastic and absurd. The President's statement is no more a predated declaration of war than the opposition to it is a predated notice of surrender in the face of the mounting threat of Communist aggression."

February 21.—IN the morning, the President cancelled all his appointments with scheduled callers. He saw only U.S. Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance, who brought out problems arising from a lack of bottoms.

Spruance also saw the President on the scheduled call of U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, who was due to make a stopover in Manila this afternoon on his way to Bangkok, Thailand, to represent the United States in the Manila Treaty (SEATO) Conference which opens there tomorrow.

In the afternoon, before receiving Secretary Dulles, the President received Defense Secretary Sotero B. Cabahug and brig. Gen. Eulogio Balao, AFP vice-chief of staff. Cabahug and Balao briefed the president on the defense preparations before the scheduled conference with Dulles.

The President received Secretary Dulles shortly after the latter arrived in Manila at 4:06 in the afternoon. The Secretary was accompanied to Malacañang by his party, including Assistant Secretary of State Walter Robertson, Counselor Douglas MacArthur II, Frank Maden, and U.S. Ambassador Spruance.

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Raul. S. Manglapus and Ambassador Felino Neri assisted the President in his conference with Secretary Dulles.

In a 50-minutes conference which started about 5 p.m., Secretary Dulles briefed the President on the Formosa situation. The President was scheduled to discuss with Secretary Dulles the problems of Philippines defense, but they decided to postpone further discussions on the subject until the Secretary returns to Manila from the Bangkok conference in about a week.

Shortly after the 50-minute closed-door conference with the President, Secretary Dulles issued a statement praising President Magsaysay's Formosa policy statement and declaring that such "plain speaking" on the part of democratic nations could deter any communist plan for aggression.

Dulles indicated that blunt terms, rather than diplomacy, "can well be instrumental in deterring a reckless communist miscalculation which could endanger the lives of many."

He said: "I have expressed to President Magsaysay the appreciation of President Eisenhower and myself for the moral support of the efforts of the United States to maintain peace in Asia given by President Magsaysay in his Formosa statement."

Dulles also warned: "The Chinese communists are probing the intentions of the free peoples."

After the conference, the President said Dulles gave him "very, very heartening and informative" facts on the Formosa situation. He declined, however, to give newsmen details of the talks. He said Dulles also gave him "vital information which I do not want to disclose to the enemy."

In the evening, the President headed ranking government officials who attended the Gridiron dinner of the National Press Week. The President delivered a short speech worthy of the occasion to cap the evening's fanfare.

February 22.—THIS morning the President received officers of the palace guards of South Vietnam who called to pay their respects following their recent arrival in Manila on a goodwill visit here.

During the call, the President was presented with a silver cigar lighter and a woodwork of a typical Vietnamese woman carved in a *camagong* as gifts from Prime Minister Ngo Dinh Diem. The Vietnamese officers informed the President that during their few days' visit here, they would also observe procedures and techniques of the local presidential guard battalion for possible adoption in their country.

Headed by Maj. Nguyen Vinh, the visiting officers included Capt. Ly Trong Song, Capt. Huynh Van Cao, Lt. Vo Van Tam, and Sub-Lt. Le Ngoc Tran. They were accompanied to the President by Col. Napoleon D. Valeriano, senior military aide and commander of the Malacañang guards.

Earlier this morning, the President received Felipe B. Ollada, who presented him with an oil painting showing the Chief Executive watching a farmer working on a rice field with a plow and carabao. He also received officers of the Bataan Youth Movement who paid their respects following their induction to office. Accompanied by Rep. Jose R. Nuguid, the new BYM officers were headed by Delfin Guinto, president.

The President received callers from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Visitors consisted mostly of provincial delegations which requested waterworks, barrio roads, schoolhouses, and other projects for their respective localities.

Rep. Leon Guinto, Jr., accompanied Mayors Benjamin Marquez of Padre Burgos, Valeriano Oliveros Alabat, and Jose Carmona of General Luna, all town mayors in his district in Quezon.

Rep. Felipe Gaduque accompanied a delegation from Tuguegarao. Cagayan, headed by Mayor amado Arugay, while Rep. Apolinario Apacible accompanied councilors from Nasugbu, Batangas.

Rep. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing sought the establishment of a settlement project in Capiz. She was accompanied by Eligio J. Tavanlar general manager of the NARRA, who requested the release of more funds for the construction of roads for various government settlement areas in the country.

Other callers included Sen. Tomas Cabili, Reps. Celestino Juan of Nueva Ecija, Pio Duran of Albay, Jose Roy of Tarlac, Vicente L. Peralta of Sorsogon, Juan Bondad and Luis Hora of Mt. Province, and Maximino Noel of Cebu; Gov. Juan Pajo of Bohol and Adelmo Camacho of Bataan, PNB President Arsenio Jison; and Mauro Baradi.

The President directed this day that action be taken immediately against former Rep. Pascual Espinosa, together with other officials of the Consolidated Labor Union, while any criminal charges by the Government against the officials of the Luzon Stevedoring Company of Manila and the Luzon Stevedoring Company of Guam labor case.

Secretary Tuason recommended to the President “criminal execution for estafa. . . against the responsible officials of the Consolidated Labor Union.” He informed the President that a copy of the committee’s report had been sent “to the provincial fiscal of Iloilo or the city attorney of Iloilo City, as the case may be, to make a demand on said officials for the refund of the missing funds, and if they refuse or fail to do so, to conduct preliminary investigations and file the corresponding information.”

The President directed that Secretary Tuason’s recommendations be implemented at once and the necessary charges pursued to their completion by the Government. In this connection, former Rep. Pascual Espinosa, who is the President of the Consolidated Labor Union, will be brought to justice, together with all those officials found guilty in any impending proceedings against them. There will be no exceptions.

Secretary Tuason in his report to the President said he had Stevedoring Company of Manila of the Luzon Stevedoring Company of Guam. “Individual laborers of these companies Tuason pointed out, were free to institute civil actions at any time if they so desired but these laborers had to initiate “such actions in their personal capacity. . .” The President concurred with the further observation by the secretary of justice that “the laborers have retained competent lawyers and, it would seem, would not need the Department of Labor’s assistance.”

In the afternoon, the President received a joint delegation of the provincial board and the Albay Mayor’s League which presented him with a joint resolution expressing their unequivocal concurrence with the President’s stand on Formosa and pledging to him the unqualified and full support of the people of Albay.

The delegation was headed jointly by Albay Gov. Manuel M. Calleja and Provincial Board Members Crisostomo Silo and Eduardo Honrado and Mayor Apolonio Bocalbos of Tabaco, president of the Albay Mayor’s League. The delegation was accompanied to Malacañang by Sen. Edmundo Cea, Reps. Pio Duran and Justino Nuyda, Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, and PCAC Vice-Chairman Nicanor Maronilla-Seva.

All the 17 mayors of Albay, together with other political leaders of the province, including Buen Morales, traveled all the way to Malacañang to present the resolution to the President.

Popular support to the president’s stand on Formosa continues to mount every day as resolutions coming from provincial boards, municipal councils, and civic organizations continue to be received in Malacañang.

Last Monday, a delegation of the Catholic Action of the Philippines headed by Chancellor Jose Ma. Hernandez, president of the association, called at Malacañang while the President was away and presented a statement of the association declaring its unequivocal and unconditional stand behind the President's statement on Formosa. In the absence of the President, Chancellor Hernandez and the delegation presented the resolution to Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro.

During the call of the Albay delegation, four former Liberal mayors, namely, Miguel Bustamante of Libog, Jose del Rosario of Ligao, Cristeto M. Cirujales of Tiwi, and Jose N. Ortega of Jovellar took their oath as Nacionalistas before President Magsaysay, who is the titular head of the Nacionalista Party.

The President expressed satisfaction and thanked the Albay delegation for their spontaneous pledge of support to his stand on Formosa.

The President also received a resolution from the municipal board of the City of Cagayan de Oro endorsing unqualifiedly the President's statement on the Formosa situation.

February 23.—IN the morning, the President received the members of the trade mission who are going to Seattle, Washington, to encourage foreign capital to invest in the Philippine industries.

The President wished the delegation success and expressed confidence in the capabilities of the members. Among those who called on the President were P. E. Dominog, chairman; and H. G. Henares, Mamerto Jacinto, Vicente recto, Manuel E. Buenafe, Mrs. Rosario Cornel, Miss Carmelita de Castro, Domingo Guevarra, A.P. Laudico, Florentino Vergel de Dios, Ernesto Rufino, D. B. Ambrosia, and A. Marchadesch. The members of the mission were accompanied by Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma.

The chief executive received few callers because of the regular meeting of the Cabinet. Among his other callers were Speaker Pro-tempore Daniel Romualdez, Gov. Bernardo Torres, and Mayors Liberato Taganas and Juanito Almosa of Kananga and Hinunangan, Leyte, respectively.

During the Cabinet meeting, President Magsaysay ordered Auditor General Manual Agregado to speed up the release of the P15 million earmarked for public works. The President was visibly irked upon receiving reports that out of the P15 million approved by the Budget Commission and already deposited with the Philippine National Bank, only P2,500,000 had been released by the auditor general.

The President called up Agregado by telephone and told him to release the funds right away. He said that employees of the General Auditing Office should be required to work overtime if necessary to expedite the release of these much-needed funds. He added that he wanted urgent public works projects to be finished so that hundreds of the unemployed would be able to work.

The President directed Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, chairman of the monetary board, to expedite the release of dollar allocations for tax-exempt industries. This, he said, would hasten the flow into the country of investment capital and further encourage local investors.

He said that he had received reports that such dollar allocations had been held pending by the monetary board for a long time, thus hampering the progress of the country's industrialization.

The President also directed that dollar allocations for luxury goods should be curtailed so that more could be funneled for the needs of new industries. Hernandez was told by the President to report to the Cabinet on the progress of the implementation of these policies by the monetary board.

The President inquired from OEC Administrator Alfredo Montelibano about reported corn shortage in Cebu. He said that he had received reports that in some sections of the province people were eating only one meal a day because of

the scarcity of corn. Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta said that one of the causes of the corn shortage was the establishment of corn starch factories which eat up a substantial portion of the corn supply.

The President directed that a ship be chartered to go to the Celebes to get the corn to be ordered by the NARIC to relieve the scarcity of this staple in the Visayas.

The president directed Foreign affairs undersecretary Raul S. Manglapus to send a note to the Chinese charge d'affaires reiterating the President's stand on repatriation to Taipei, Formosa, of some 2,400 overstayed Chinese.

The repatriation of these Chinese was one of the matters taken up by Chinese Foreign Minister George K. C. Yeh with Vice-president and concurrently Foreign affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia during the former's recent visit here. Although nothing definite resulted from the talks, the President said that he saw no reason to change his previous stand which was to send these overstayed Chinese to Taipei.

This matter was taken up in the Cabinet in connection with a petition of several Chinese deportees covered by orders of deportation issued by the President or by the Bureau of Immigration, requesting their temporary release from confinement under certain conditions, pending their actual deportation. This request is still under study by the President and the Cabinet.

Other Cabinet meeting developments follow:

(1) Upon recommendation of OEC Administrator Alfredo Montelibano, the Cabinet authorized that immediate negotiations be made with the U.S. government for the acquisition by the Philippine Government, under the U.S. Public Law No. 480, of commodities intended to supplant importations of the Philippines from countries other than the United States with which the Philippines has unfavorable trade balances, aggregating a maximum total of P60 million repayable within 10, 15, or 20 years. The Cabinet directed Montelibano to prepare the list of commodities to be imported from the United States and also the list of projects to be financed from the proceeds to be derived from these importations.

(2) The Cabinet approved the request of the Filipino Mineral Producers Association for government assistance for the inclusion of Philippine chromite, manganese, and cooper in the present stockpiling program of the United States Government. The request had been suggested by Minister Raul T. Leuterio of the Philippines in Washington, D.C., in a letter to the association. The Cabinet directed the Department of agriculture and natural Resources and the Department of Foreign Affairs to implement this approval.

(3) Upon recommendation of OEC Administrator Montelibano, the Cabinet approved the request of the National Power Corporation for an additional financing of P31 million for the Ambuklao hydroelectric project. Montelibano said that this additional loan was necessary to complete construction work in the Ambuklao hydroelectric project on the Agno River. For this reason, it is necessary to draft a bill requesting an increase in the borrowing capacity of the NPC from P170,500,000 to P400,000,000.

The Cabinet also approved a request from the Metropolitan Water District to increase the limit of the bonded indebtedness of the MWD from P30 million to P50 million to finance its five-year program of construction and improvement of the water supply system which will be undertaken during the current fiscal year.

The President said that drafts of the bills should be prepared for submission to Congress.

In the afternoon, the President received U.S. Senator Margaret Chase Smith, who interviewed him over the television facilities of the Columbia Broadcasting System. The TV interview was held at the President's study.

President Magsaysay received Sen. Smith at his study at 3:30 p.m. She was accompanied to Malacañang by Ambassador and Mrs. Raymond A. Spruance; William C. Lewis, Jr., executive assistant to the senator; John Nally, USIS chief in Manila; and two Columbia Broadcasting System technicians.

Sen. Smith made a televised interview with the President for distribution in the United States. The President was dressed in a grey two-buttoned suit with a tie to match while Sen. Smith was dressed in light blue. The television lasted about six minutes.

After the television interview, the President and Mrs. Magsaysay entertained Sen. Smith with *amerienda* at the music room. During the *merienda* the President explained to the Senator how he had fought Huks in the Philippines by applying what he called "all-out force and all-out friendship." The senator was greatly impressed by the President's exposition of his unorthodox method of combating communism. She said that the American people had very high admiration for the President, especially in his successful fights against communism. The President gave the Senator an embroidered handbag as a souvenir of her visit to the Philippines.

President Magsaysay received later in the afternoon Gov. Decoroso Rosales and 14 mayors of Samar who presented to him a resolution supporting the President's stand on the Formosa question.

The 14 mayors brought a resolution which said in part: "We the undersigned municipal mayors hereby give unconditionally our support to the stand of the President of the Philippines on the Formosa question."

The 14 mayors were as follows: Florentino Lomuntad, chairman of the League, Eusebio Moore of Catarman, Paulino Natividad of MacArthur, Pedro de la Cruz of Pambuhan, Rufo de Guia of Mondragon, Homobono Jolijuli of Las Navas, Elpidio Arsenio of Guiuan, Max F. Manook of Allen, Jesus T. Orsolino of Catubig, Hilarion Cabos of Mercedes, Panfilo Pabilonia of Quinahondan, Domingo Favellar of Giforlos, Jose Opinion of Palapag, Rosendo Gadicho of Balangiga, and Juan E. Divina of Bobon.

During the call the mayors who were formerly Liberals took their oath as Nacionalistas before President Magsaysay, who is titular head of the Nacionalista Party. Gov. Rosales said that he was 100 per cent behind the President's stand on Formosa and that his province also stood behind the President on this question.

In the evening, the President received Sens. Quintin Paredes and Macario Peralta, Jr., who called to discuss the charges Sen. Claro M. Recto had hurled regarding the President's stand on Formosa. The President assured the two senators that he had not entered into any alliance with the Chinese Nationalist government to allow its troops to redeploy in the Philippines.

After conferring with the two LP senators, the President went to the golden anniversary celebration of the Rotary International at the Palm Court of the Manila Hotel.

Addressing the Rotary Festival, the President called on the nation to marshal all "our material and our human resources" to preserve the democratic way of life, in the face of the aggressive Communist effort to colonize the free world.

Defining the relationship between the Philippines and the United States, the president said it was a partnership in the building of democracy "in its broadest sense and on a world scale."

The President paid tribute to democracy as a society in which the welfare of the individual is the first and major concern of government and as a world community in which each nation, whether weak or powerful has a voice and acknowledged rights.

Both the United States and the Philippines, the President said, have to implant in this country a system of altruistic government, which the Filipinos dreamed of and fought for over the centuries.

"Our mutual investment in human dignity and progress must be protected at all costs," the President said. He asserted that Philippine contribution to this partnership "may be less tangible, but it is no less significant."

While a free and vigorous society is being developed in this country, “without forfeiting our independence as individuals and as a nation,” the President continued, “some of our neighbors may find in our example the encouragement they need to solve their own problems.” (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 686-689), for the full text of the President’s Rotary address)

February 24.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay cancelled again this day his scheduled appointments with callers in order to work on pending state papers. However, he received Sens. Tomas Cabili and Emmanuel Pelaez, who reported on the development in the Senate deliberation on the four-party resolution endorsing the President’s stand on the Formosa question.

The President has rejected as unnecessary all proposals aimed at clarifying his Formosa policy statement with phrases that would express that his commitment was in line with the Philippines’ treaty obligations, as demanded by Sen. Claro M. Recto.

The Malacañang spokesman today issued the following statement:

“When Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez presented to the President the proposed compromise resolution authored by Sen. Alejo Mabanag, he told the President that Sen. Claro M. Recto was insisting on qualifying the Senate’s endorsement with the phrase ‘in the understanding that the President’s stand expressed our treaty obligations.’ The purpose, according to Sen. Pelaez, was to make it clear that the President’s Formosa statement did not commit the country beyond our treaty obligations. The President rejected the qualifying phrase and said that there was no need, nor justification for a clarification. He said that his statement is clear and cannot in any sense be interpreted as Sen. Recto would want to.”

After receiving the two senators, the president closed himself again and resumed his work on the papers that had piled the previous day.

Later the president received Prof. Enrique M. Fernando, who submitted his report on the investigation of two officials of the National Shipyards and steel corporation (NASSCO) who were exonerated on a bribery charge. Fernando said his committee had exonerated Manuel Dikit and Cecilio Diaz of the NASSCO of the administrative charges filed against them. The President conferred with legislative secretary Jose C. Nable on the progress of administrative measures pending in Congress.

The President left in the afternoon to visit a sick relative.

February 25.—EARLY today, the President conferred with Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug, AFP Vice-Chief of Staff Brig. Gen. Eugenio Balao, and JUSMAG Chief Maj. Gen. Robert Cannon. They discussed Armed Forces matters.

The conference started at 8 a.m. and lasted for almost one hour. Armed Forces problems, especially training in the Philippine Airforce, were taken up.

After the conference, the President approved the initial release of P100,000 for the opening of a 40,000-hectare NARRA settlement project in Jolo. The President approved the release at the request of NARRA Manager Eligio Tavanlar and Princess Tarhata Kiram, influential Moslem figure in the South.

The opening of the Tandu-Panamao settlement in Jolo will enable landless moros and reformed outlaws to acquire lands of their own. Princess Tarhata told the president that land distribution is a more effective weapon in combating outlawry in Sulu.

The Chief executive also approved the request of Tavanlar and Princess Tarhata seeking the cooperation of the Department of Public Works and communications and the engineer corps of the AFP to help in the construction of

roads. Relief help for the settlers from the Social Welfare Administration was also sought by Tavanlar and Princess Tarhata.

Tavanlar, Princess Tarhata, Col. Antonio Chanco, chief of the AFP engineer corps, NARRA Chief Engineer Mario Morelos, and Ben Ligot of the NARRA will leave on March 1 for Jolo to look over the settlement project.

Before attending the special Cabinet meeting which started about 10 a.m., the President received *Reuters* Editor Walton A. Cole, who paid a courtesy call.

The President and his Cabinet at a special meeting this day authorized the construction of national buildings in the capitol site in Quezon City as provided for in Republic Act 333. This decision set the policy in the implementation of the law on the construction of these buildings.

The Cabinet also provided:

- (1) The membership of the Philippine Trade Mission to West Germany;
- (2) A new policy regarding the full payment of salaries to the families of government pensionados studying abroad in addition to their monthly pensions; and
- (3) The designation of Dr. Urbano A. Zafra, commercial counselor at the Philippine embassy in Washington D.C. as alternate member of the board of directors of the Sugar Association, Inc., and its affiliates to enable him to attend meetings of the board in New York.

During the Cabinet meeting, the president urged Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa to do his best in helping landowners get loans from the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation for the installation of irrigation pumps in their farms in order to make them more productive. Sometime ago, the President had directed the RFC to expedite the giving of loans for such purposes.

This matter was brought up when Secretary Orosa reported to the President, that a certain Benjamin Hernandez of Iba, Oeste, Calumpit, Bulacan, who had asked Orosa's help to get an RFC loan of P4,000 for the installation of a pump on his onion farm was now ready to pay his debt. According to Orosa, Hernandez's loan which was on a 10-year term could be paid within this year as a result of the improvements on his farm brought about by the irrigation system. Orosa showed pictures of the Hernandez onion farm.

During the Cabinet meeting, Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason disclosed that the Supreme Court had already issued an injunction restraining the Court of industrial Relations from enforcing a CIR order to have the striking marine officers go back to work. As a result of this action of the Supreme Court, the interisland ships which had been tied up for the last few days has started to make interisland trips beginning last Thursday.

Consequently, the Cabinet did not discuss any more the previous offer of the shipping companies to have the Government take over the management of their ships instead of taking back the strikers.

Secretary Orosa requested a Cabinet policy on the construction of national buildings at the Capitol Site in Quezon City. The law authorized the sale of bonds in the sum of P42 million for a five-year construction program of the national buildings in the Capitol site. Out of this amount, P2 million had been authorized for expenditure during this year and P10 million afterwards every year for four years until the whole program is completed.

The Cabinet authorized the construction of the legislative, judiciary, and executive buildings July this year during which the first P10 million will be made available for the purpose. The President told Orosa to be ready with the plans and designs of all these buildings in order that construction could start to provide employment from hundreds of workers.

The Cabinet took steps Friday morning to expand the country's trade by approving the composition of the Philippine Trade Mission to negotiate trade and final agreements with west Germany and explore the possibility of negotiating similar agreements with Pakistan, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, France, and Sweden.

Appointed to the mission were Ambassador Leon Ma. Guerrero, delegate and chairman of the delegation; Felisberto M. Verano, delegate and vice-chairman; and one alternate delegate each from the Department of foreign affairs and the Central Bank. Except for the expenses of the delegate from the Department of Foreign Affairs, the expenses of the mission will be borne by the Central Bank.

The work of the mission is expected to last beyond June 30, 1955.

The Cabinet approved new policy regarding the payment of salaries of government pensionados studying abroad. Revising a former executive order, if the pensionado's actual salary in addition to the P350 monthly pension which is received by the pensionado. Under the old executive order, if the pensionado's salary was below P350, he would receive his monthly pension of P350 while his family would receive none; if the salary was over P350, the pensionado would receive P350 while his family would receive the difference between the pensionado's salary and P350.

The President approved the new regulation in order to help the families of government pensionados who would otherwise suffer financially while the pensionados were away pursuing their studies. The president also said that this was but just inasmuch as scholars and fellows under the PHILCUSA-FOA, Smith-Mundt, Fulbright, United Nations, UNESCO, ICAO, Central Bank, Philippine National Bank, Armed Forces of the Philippines, and University of the Philippines, were receiving their full salaries.

The designation of Counsellor Zafra as alternate member of the board of directors of the Sugar Association, Inc., was requested by the PHILSUGIN because the PHILSUGIN had been admitted as a sustaining member of the Sugar Association and because Dr. Zafra's wide knowledge and previous long experience with the Philippine sugar industry and its problems qualify him to represent not only the Philippines Sugar Institute but primarily the Philippine sugar industry in the Sugar Association, Inc.

In the afternoon, the President left the Palace for an airing on Dewey Boulevard. He returned to Malacañang early in the evening.

February 26.—FORGOING his customary week-end trip to the province, the President spent a quiet morning today, receiving no callers except three Malacañang assistants who saw him in his study. He closeted himself all morning in his study, attending to pending state papers brought to him.

With Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro and Legislative Secretary Jose C. Nable, the President took up the Administration's legislative program. The President announced his plan to meet congressional leaders in an effort to speed up legislative action on pending administrative measures in Congress.

The President also conferred with Ambassador Felino Neri, Malacañang technical adviser of foreign affairs, and discussed with him the projected stopped overnight in Manila on his way to the SEATO Conference in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Japanese reparations question, which still remains deadlocked, was also taken up by Neri.

In the afternoon, the President went to see a moving picture in a downtown theater. He was accompanied by his aide, Maj. Pat. Garcia. He returned to the Palace early in the evening.

February 27.—THE president spent another quiet day in the palace this day. After breakfast, he went over some papers to clear up his desk of pending state papers before going to his hometown in the afternoon.

At 4 p.m., the president left with the First Lady for the Nichols airbase to board his plane Pagasa for a one-day delayed trip to Castillejos, Zambales. They were accompanied by Maj. Pat Garcia.

Before leaving for the airbase, the president conferred with legislative Secretary Jose C. Nable. He instructed Nable to start inviting leaders of Congress for the scheduled meeting this week in Malacañang.

A Malacañang spokesman said the President is expected to be back in the Palace early tomorrow.

February 28.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning told a 200-man delegation of tenants from Hacienda del Rosario in Cabanatuan evicted. He said that the rentals the tenants were paying for the land were not being accepted by the owners of the hacienda.

The bill (H. B. No. 600) was passed by the Lower House last year but was held pending in the Senate. According to rep. Celestino Juan of Nueva Ecija, who accompanied the delegation, the tenants were being evicted. He said that the rentals the tenants were paying for the land were not being accepted by the owners of the hacienda.

The President was applauded by the delegation when he said that he would recommend the early approval of the measure expropriating the hacienda so that the land could be subdivided by the Government and distributed to the tenants.

The Chief Executive also received some members of the Liberal Party provincial chapter in Quezon province who submitted a resolution “voluntarily and heartily” endorsing and supporting the President’s stand on the Formosa question. The LP delegation from Quezon was headed by former Gov. Gregorio Santayana. Others in the delegation were ex-Mayor Vicente Victoria, Col. Godofredo Magallanes, Rolando Sales, and Mayor Gregorio Arfanel.

Among the scores of endorsements to the President’s stand on the Formosa question coming continuously from various parts of the country which were received in Malacañang during the week-end was that from the Most Rev. Jose Ma. Cuenco, archbishop of Jaro, who airmailed a copy of the Iloilo newspaper Veritas with an editorial supporting the President. On instruction of senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, his secretary transmitted to President Magsaysay a telegram received by the senate head from the Misamis Occidental Lions Club saying that the club unanimously approved President Magsaysay’s stand backing President Eisenhower on the Formosa affairs.

Gov. Wenceslao Pascual of Rizal accompanied Mayor Roberto Monroy and the municipal councilors of Navotas who requested from the President the early dredging of the Navotas River. The dredging, according to Mayor Monroy, would help fishermen. The President telephoned Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa and instructed him to finish the dredging as soon as possible.

Earlier, the President received a delegation from Quezon City chapter of the liberty Wells Association which presented him with P20,272.10 for the Liberty Wells Fund Campaign. The amount which represented collections of the Quezon City chapter from private contributions was handed to the President by Mrs. Carmen P. Fanlo, chairman of the drive. She was assisted in the campaign by Mrs. Enrique C. Quema, wife of the assistant executive secretary. The delegation was accompanied by Quezon City Mayor Norberto Amoranto, general chairman of the chapter, and Albino Sycip, treasurer of the association.

Rep. Jacobo Gonzales of Laguna reported to the President on his work as a member of the Philippine delegation to the United Nations.

Other callers of the President included Reps. Vicente Peralta of sorsogon, Domingo Veloso of Leyte, Alberto Ubay of Zamboanga del Norte, Antonio Raquiza of Ilocos Norte, Ombra Amilbangsa of Sulu, Justino Nuyda of Albay, Felipe Abeleda of Mindoro, and Panfilo Manguera of Marinduque and Govs. Rafael Lazatin of Pampanga, Juan Alberto of Catanduanes, and Manuel Calleja of Albay.

The President took further steps this day to strengthen the government’s rural development program by:

(1) Signing Administrative Order No. 102, creating a committee to study problems of landed estates;

(2) Signing executive Order No. 100, creating a committee to find ways and means of promoting farm mechanization and of improving credit facilities to farmers.

The committee to study problems of landed estates is composed of the agriculture undersecretary as the chairman and with the chairman of the Agricultural Tenancy Commission and Atty. Manuel E. Castaneda as members. The three-man group will study ways and means for the most feasible, speedy, and economical acquisition of landed estates by the government.

The committee created to promote farm mechanization and improve credit facilities to farmers will be chairmanned by Dr. Amando Dalisay, executive secretary of the National Economic Council. The committee members are Director Felix Maramba of the National Agricultural Council; Martin Duarte of Koppel (Phil.), Inc.; Vicente Sabalvaro, manager of the Tanauan Rural Bank; Atty. Jose M. Trinidad, agriculturist of the RFC; Patrocinio Cordero, president of the Farm Machinery club; Catalino Cabe, vice-president of the G.A. Machineries, Inc.; R. Mariano Corpus, director of the Central Bank; Dr. Manuel Marquez, president of the Commercial Bank and Trust Co.; Luis Ablaza, president of the Monte de Piedad; and Miss Ana Maria Araneta, member of the board of regents of Araneta Institute of Agriculture. Atty. Vicente Roco, Jr., vice-president of Radiowealth, Inc., is the secretary.

In carrying out its work, the committee was directed to take into account not only tractor spare parts and accessories of machinery but also small labor-saving implements and gadgets developed in Japan, Formosa, and India which may be suited to small farms in the Philippines.

The committee was further directed to submit its report and recommendations to the President as soon as possible.

In order to give impetus to scientific endeavors and promote the cause of science and technology, President Magsaysay signed Proclamation No. 118, declaring the period from March 7, to 13, 1955 as "Science and technology Week," and created a committee to take charge of its fitting observance.

Members of the committee responsible for the observance of the week are: the secretary of agriculture and natural resources as chairman, with the secretary of health, the secretary of education, the administrator of economic coordination, the director of science and technology, the president of the National Research Council of the Philippines, the president of the Philippine Council of Science and Technology, and the President of the Philippine Association for the Advancement of Science, as members.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

Magsaysay, R. (1955). Official Month in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51 (2), liii-xci.

President's Month in Review: March, 1955

President's Month in Review: April, 1955

OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

April 1. — THE President this morning received, Robert Modlin, who is making advance arrangements for its Far Eastern tour. He was accompanied to Malacañang by Alfredo Lozano, impresario. They called on him for 15 minutes.

Invited to attend the orchestra's gala performance by Modlin and Lozano, the Chief Executive readily accepted. He also granted permission for the series of concerts to be conducted under his patronage.

The President hailed the forthcoming arrival in the Philippines of the 92-man Symphony of the Air (the former NBC symphony orchestra of Arturo Toscanini) as a major cultural event. He said he was personally looking forward to hearing its performance.

Among other places, the orchestra is playing in Hongkong, B.C.C., and Taipeh, Formosa, under the patronage of the governor-general of Hongkong and Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, respectively.

The President told Modlin he had a number of records of performances by the NBC symphony orchestra under Toscanini. He said he enjoyed listening to them immensely. He added he had recently received a gift from Toscanini of an album of recordings of the orchestra's performances of all of Beethoven's symphonies.

The President this morning authorized the release of P200.000 from his contingent fund for the immediate relief of earthquake victims in Mindanao and the Visayas and ordered SWA Administrator Pacita Madrigal Warns to rush assistance to the stricken areas.

The President gave the order promptly upon receiving telegrams from provincial and municipal officials who reported extensive destruction in their respective localities. The official telegrams which began coming in at 7:00 a.m. reported widespread panic among the population and requested that the Weather Bureau experts be asked to determine the cause of the quakes.

In response to the order, Administrator Warns immediately boarded a plane this morning and flew to the stricken regions. She took along a team of relief workers and relief goods consisting of foodstuffs, medicine, and other supplies.

The President expressed grave concern over the mounting loss of lives and property. He alerted the Air Force and the Navy to be ready to transport relief supplies and materials to the affected areas. He anxiously awaited more telegrams expected to report further on casualties and destruction as the effects of the tremors were ascertained.

The President issued Proclamation No. 142, declaring the existence of a public calamity in the earthquake-stricken provinces, and prepared to fly to the disaster area tomorrow morning to survey the extent of the damage himself.

The President's proclamation, invoking the provisions of Act No. 4164, prohibited the hoarding of palay, rice, corn, and building or construction materials as well as the sale of these commodities at prices higher by 25 per cent or more than their average price one month ago. It authorized Constabulary commanders and police chiefs in the stricken areas to seize hoarded stocks or those sold at profiteering prices.

The places to which the proclamation applies are Misamis Oriental, Misamis Occidental, Surigao, Lanao, and the cities of Cagayan de Oro, Ozamis, Iligan, and Dansalan.

The President said in an informal press conference with Malacañang reporters that he planned to fly to the stricken area tomorrow morning to look into the situation himself. He also said he had released an additional P300.000 from

his contingent fund for relief. Added to the P200,000 which he had made available earlier immediately upon receiving first advices of the disaster, this would make a total release of P500,000 thus far.

The President also telephoned Brig. Gen. William Lee, U. S. 13th Air Force Commanding General, at Clark Field and put in a request for emergency assistance from the U. S. Armed Forces, in the form of medicines and medical teams in case the situation revealed an urgent need for them. Gen. Lee assured the President of full support and assistance from his command and said he would even have medicines flown in from Japan if the need arose. He further said medical teams would stand by immediately in case they were also needed.

The President thanked Lee for this generous response and promised to contact him again after making a personal survey of the situation.

Two planes already have left Manila for the stricken area on orders of the President. The first carried SWA Administrator Pacita Madrigal Warns, her assistants, SWA relief packages, and two Weather Bureau seismologists, Roman Kintanar and Wellington Minosa. The second plane took Army medical teams composed of four officers, two nurses, and eight enlisted men and a public affairs office team of two officers and one enlisted man.

The President also instructed Brig. Gen. Eulogio Balao, AFP vice-chief of staff, who was in the 3rd MA, to proceed immediately to the stricken region to survey the situation. The President directed the 4th MA to take measures to extend all possible assistance to victims, preserve peace and order, and help relief teams.

The President also told Malacañang reporters in an informal press conference today that Customs Commissioner Edilberto David will be transferred to the Department of Finance as technical assistant pending the investigation of charges filed against him. The President said David's transfer will obviate the possibility of his obstructing the investigation. He added that in case it was shown later that David was hampering the probe just the same, he will be suspended.

Queried as to who will replace David in the meantime, the President said this matter was under study.

The President also said that Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo's appointment as Cabinet member without portfolio to qualify him to head the Philippine delegation to the Bandung (Afro-Asian) conference will be made upon Romulo's arrival in Manila enroute to the confab.

The President also said at the press conference that Ruben Ledesma, chief examiner in the Bureau of Civil Service, had been named only as officer in charge of the bureau and not as acting commissioner. An afternoon newspaper had erroneously reported that Ledesma had been sworn into office as acting commissioner. The President said that actually Ledesma had been designated and inducted as officer in charge.

April 2.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay woke up early this morning and led a large group of senators, representatives, newspapermen and photographers in a flight of four PAF planes to visit the earthquake-stricken provinces of Mindanao.

The presidential party took off at 8: 00 a.m., and landed at the Ozamis City airport at 10:55 a.m. Losing no time, the President motored to the city to view the destruction caused by the series of tremors which had rocked northern Mindanao.

The President first viewed the ruins of the Immaculate Concepcion church in Ozamis City. Finding it destroyed, he initiated a fund drive for its reconstruction by giving P60.

Then the President visited the city wharf which had been heavily damaged by the tremors. He also found the Constabulary barracks sunk about two feet.

Upon receipt of the news of the President's arrival, residents of the city flocked around the Chief Executive. Seeing a widow, a certain store-owner whose establishment had been rocked into the sea, the President pulled out P40 from his wallet and gave the amount to the earthquake victim.

After a survey of the destruction in Ozamis City, the President flew with the members of his party to Lake Lanao, his plane dipping as low as 100 feet above the ground level. The President finally landed at the Dansalan City airport.

In Dansalan City, the President released P140,000 to finance the relief work in the province. He motored to the residence of Gov. Salvador Lluch. The porch of the governor's residence craked and threw a scare to the members of the presidential party who thought that another earthquake had shaken the place.

The President motored toward the Maria Cristina project, but the way was blocked by landslides. He attempted to cross the road block on foot, but after covering a distance of 30 feet he decided to give up.

The President returned to Dansalan City airport and took off for Manila about 4 p.m. The presidential party arrived at the MIA at 7 o'clock in the evening.

With the presidential party were Sens. Tomas Cabili and Emmanuel Pelaez; Reps. Cesar M. Fortich of Bukidnon, Ignacio Cruz of Misamis Oriental, and William Chiongbian of Misamis Occidental; Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Brig. Gen. Pelagio A. Cruz, and newspapermen and photographers.

April 3.—WAKING up early in the morning, the President heard mass with members of his family at the Malacañang chapel. Eating his breakfast about 8:30 a.m., he suddenly summoned his aide, Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo, and ordered him to call members of his Cabinet to a special meeting at 9 a.m.

Some of the Cabinet members were contacted at their residences just as they returned from church, while others were located at the golf courses. These came in their playing togs. One or two who could not be located at all were represented at the meeting by an undersecretary or a bureau director. The meeting lasted from 9:15 to 10:30 a.m.

The President today set the entire government machinery into motion for the purpose of effecting prompt and expeditious administration of relief and reconstruction work in the disaster areas of Mindanao and the Visayas, and then stepped into the presidential plane *Pagasa* for his second on-the-spot survey of the disaster region within 48 hours.

After this trip to the provinces worst hit by the recent earthquake yesterday, the President this morning called a special meeting of his Cabinet and organized a "task force" in which all departments of the government are represented, to undertake a thorough survey of the stricken areas.

Called the Relief and Reconstruction Authority (RRA), the body will determine the needs of each locality and proceed, without further delay with the rehabilitation of each locality. Activities of the group will include the reconstruction or repair of schoolhouses, roads, bridges, wharves, and other public buildings damaged by the quake. It will also put up temporary housing programs in various points of the disaster areas for the hundreds of families which had been rendered homeless by the calamity.

With PCAC Chairman Manuel P. Manahan as chairman, the RRA is composed of Rafael Contreras, division engineer, representing the Department of Public Works and Communications; Amadeo Cruz, in charge of rural health, representing the Department of Health; Sotero H. Bay, accounting officer, representing the Budget Commission; Honorio Villaranda, labor administrator for Northern Mindanao, representing the Department of Labor; and Alberto Dalusong of the Bureau of Public Schools, representing the Department of Education.

The Department of Justice will be represented by the provincial fiscal of Lanao. Also to be represented is the General Auditing Office to oversee disbursements, while Col. Antonio Chanco, chief of the AFP engineer corps, will assist the group as technical adviser.

The task force is scheduled to enplane for Dansalan City early tomorrow morning. With its members authorized to make on-the-spot decisions on behalf of their respective departments, the RRA will operate as a unit with the least consultation with the Manila offices. The RRA will maintain a mobile headquarters as it will be moving about from one stricken area to another. It is authorized to call upon any government office or agency for such assistance as it may require to accomplish its mission.

The body has at its disposal the P500,000 which the President had allocated from his contingent fund. He instructed the group to spend the money wisely where it was most needed. He told the body to coordinate its activities with those of the SWA, the PNRC, and other relief agencies operating in the area.

President Magsaysay emphasized at the Cabinet meeting that the Administration could adequately handle the situation with the resources at hand. He briefed members of his Cabinet on his observations during his tour of the stricken localities and discussed with them ways of extending to these localities adequate and speedy relief. He said that although actual damage wrought by the earthquakes was not so widespread and so extensive as previously reported, there was nevertheless urgent need for prompt action on places that were really hard hit by the calamity.

In the course of the discussions, the President decided to authorize the provincial treasurer of Misamis Occidental to advance P50,000 from the provincial funds for the immediate repair of the damaged wharf in Ozamis City, and P20,000 for the relief and temporary housing of victims in the province. The provincial cash advances totalling P70,000 will be paid out from the President's contingent fund.

After the Cabinet meeting, the Chief Executive again boarded a plane at the Nichols airbase and flew to Mindanao about 11:00 a.m. He was accompanied by Manuel P. Manahan, RRA chairman, and Mrs. Magsaysay. A message subsequently received at Malacañang said the party had landed at 2:15 p.m. at the Maria Cristina airfield.

The President officially announced today that he had requested Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo to head the Philippine delegation to the Afro-Asian conference at Bandung, Indonesia. The President also said he will appoint Romulo as Cabinet member without portfolio. While these actions have been widely anticipated for sometime now this marked the first time they were officially announced by the President.

April 4.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning motored to the Philippine Air Force base operation at Nichols Field to give final instructions to the Relief and Reconstruction Authority prior to the group's departure for Lanao to coordinate relief and rehabilitation operations in the earthquake stricken area.

The President told the committee, headed by its chairman, PCAC Chairman Manuel P. Manahan, that it was the highest coordinating body in the disaster area and urged it to handle the situation on the spot. He said the group had ample authority to make on-the-spot decisions and expressed confidence it will use wisely and well the funds he had released for the stricken region.

The President said that to facilitate the Authority's work, he had even requested the auditor general to send an auditor along with the task force to make possible on-the-spot disbursements of funds.

The President asked Dr. Feliciano Cruz of the Red Cross about reports of rivalry between his organization and the Social Welfare Administration in the relief operations in Lanao. Dr. Cruz said he was unaware of any such rivalry. The President sternly warned that he did not wish to see relief operations hampered in any way by petty quarrels and rivalry. He said all groups and personnel engaged in relief work should think only of the common task.

The President also inquired from the Department of Health representatives about precautions taken to prevent epidemics. They told him they were taking with them enough sera and vaccine to prevent any outbreak of

epidemics. They also said there were enough vaccinating teams in the region to carry out simultaneous immunization.

The President left Malacañang for Nichols airbase at 7 a.m., accompanied by Press Secretary J. V. Cruz and Manuel “Dindo” Gonzalez, board chairman of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. The President met with the RRA at the base operations briefing room. He stayed about one hour with the group and then returned to Malacañang.

Meantime, Malacañang received a wire from Judge Macalalag of the Iloilo City municipal court saying that the judges and employees of the court were giving five per cent of one month’s salary as aid to the earthquake victims. Malacañang continued to receive messages of sympathy from various parts of the world. Among the messages received this day were those from President Rene Coty of France, President A. Somoza of Nicaragua, Governor-General Ghulam Mohammed of Pakistan, Cardinal Quiroga Palacios, and Spanish Ambassador Antonio Gullon.

Upon his return to Malacañang from the PAF base operations, the President went directly to the press office to view the damage wrought by the recent fire. From the press office, the President crossed over to the photographers’ section to inspect the precautions which had been taken to avert another blaze in Malacañang.

When the President’s whereabouts became known to Malacañang personnel, his assistants trailed him to the photo office, and for some time the President did his work there. He called up various officials to transact urgent business inside the small photo room. He found himself deep at work there until 11 a.m.

From the Malacañang press office, the President motored back to the Palace and retired to his bedroom, where he worked on some papers until lunch time.

The President took a nap in the afternoon, waking up about 3:30 p.m. He then resumed work on pending papers, receiving only members of the Malacañang staff.

The President today took off the name of Ambassador Felino Neri from the list of Philippine delegates to the Afro-Asian conference to be held in Bandung, Indonesia. He explained that Neri had to stay in Manila for any developments that might arise in connection with the Japanese reparations negotiations. Neri is the chief Philippine negotiator.

A previous Malacañang announcement had said the Philippine group will be headed by Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo and will include Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Raul S. Manglapus, Neri, Leonides S. Virata, “and others that he (Romulo) may want to accompany him to insure the success of his mission.”

The President said he will consult with Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently secretary of foreign affairs, regarding the instructions to be issued to the Philippine delegation to the Afro-Asian conference.

April 5.—DURING a conference this morning with Defense Secretary Sotero B. Cabahug, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff, and other top Armed Forces officers, the President cleared obstacles to prompt and coordinate extension of material and medical relief to earthquake victims in Lanao. He appointed Brig. Gen. Alfonso Arellano as co-chairman of a relief and reconstruction committee in Lanao and directed him to mobilize all available Armed Forces personnel and equipment for efforts to relieve some 100,000 persons.

The President received this afternoon the first report from Manuel P. Manahan, chairman of the RRA, on the progress of the work of his group.

The Chief Executive told Gen. Arellano to discuss with Manahan and other members of his committee the best way of screening victims of the disaster. The President said the screening would give the committee a fairly accurate number of the victims needing aid and would prevent relief material from falling into wrong hands.

Arellano will pick up at Cebu Col. Climaco Pintoy, who will assist him in directing the Armed Forces phase of the relief operations.

During the conference, the President instructed the Army to eliminate the red tape and petty rivalries among relief organizations in order to facilitate the distribution of relief goods to the earthquake sufferers in Mindanao. He expressed wonder at the delay in the distribution of funds he made available to Gov. Salvador Lluch last Sunday.

The President was informed that Assistant Treasurer of the Philippines Juan Carbonnel flew to Dansalan City this morning to expedite the release of the sum. Deputy Auditor General Pedro M. Gimenez had also directed the Dansalan City auditor to waive auditing requirements that might hold up the distribution of relief.

In his conference with Defense Secretary Cabahug and the Armed Forces top brass headed by Lieut. Gen. Vargas, the President issued the following orders:

(1) Immediate distribution to the earthquake victims of the P1 million from his contingent funds which he had already released two days ago to Gov. Salvador Lluch of Lanao in Dansalan City;

(2) Immediate sending of three additional PC companies to the stricken areas to maintain peace and order:

(3) Rigid enforcement by the PC of the presidential proclamation of the existence of a public calamity in the affected areas, prohibiting and penalizing the hoarding of essential commodities and the selling of these goods at exorbitant prices:

(4) Establishment of improved radio communications to coordinate activities in the earthquake areas:

(5) Improving transportation facilities by sending outboard motors so that relief goods and medicines could reach the stricken people quickly;

(6) Parachuting of relief goods to inaccessible areas: and

(7) Temporary relief from their work of engineer corps doing construction work in Mindanao so that they could be assigned to repair roads bridges, and public buildings in the stricken areas.

The President also directed Health Secretary Garcia to airlift a team of doctors, nurses, and sanitary inspectors to intensify health work among the people, especially inoculation and vaccination; and, told NARIC Chairman and General Manager Juan O. Chioco to have more stocks of relief rice readied in addition to the 2,000 bags of 100 kilos each scheduled to arrive in Lanao today.

Meanwhile, Ngo Dinh Diem, president of South Viet Nam, in a cable to the President, said he was ready to "send with Operation Brotherhood personnel a Vietnamese medical team to assist the Filipino people whose sons and daughters voluntarily assisted Viet Nam in her most trying days." He added that Viet Nam had been shocked over the earthquake in Mindanao and conveyed "her deep sorrow to the Filipino people, particularly the stricken families." He said, "Please request Philippine Jaycees to temporarily withdraw portion of Operation Brotherhood personnel here for immediate assistance to their afflicted brothers in Mindanao."

Antonio Dimalanta, president of the Filipino community organization in Guam, conveyed the community's deep sympathy for the earthquake victims and pledged P1,000 as help to the Philippine National Red Cross drive through Consul Bartolome Umayam.

Minister Mariano Ezpeleta in Mexico wired the President that the *Laboratorios Grossman* of Mexico were donating through the Philippine legation 200 Leodin ampules and 1,000 neothracine tablets to the Philippine Government as aid to earthquake victims. The shipment is arriving next week by PAA, Ezpeleta said.

The Pfizer Laboratories this morning also donated drugs for the earthquake victims. Assistant Executive Secretary Enrique C. Quema received the donation on behalf of the President from Dr. Quirico Agos of the Pfizer Laboratories. The drugs were immediately airlifted to Dansalan City for the disaster victims.

Chairman Manahan reported to the President that 47 relief group members had secured relief goods and services from the committee which had centralized the services for better coordination and best utilization of available resources. He added that Col. Antonio Chanco's corps of engineers yesterday commenced using 6×6 trucks with winches pulling debris off Tugaya and Bacolod lake shores for possible bodies pinned under. The President was informed that the RRA had pooled together vehicles, including those available from the malaria control units, for use of agencies in the field.

The latest count of casualties as of noon Monday (April 4) was as follows: dead—214; missing—9; injured—898; and building destroyed—2,866. Manahan said that in the reconstruction work, a preliminary survey had shown that the total estimated damage to roads and bridges amounted to P540,000 and to public buildings, P350,000. A further survey was being conducted.

The President directed that as many walkie-talkie be provided to SWA, Red Cross, *Teniente del barrios*, and other social workers in the area for greater coordination and efficiency in the relief operations. Owing to poor communications facilities in the area, with slow bancas being used, the President ordered that more outboard motors be sent. Gen. Arellano said two outboard motors already had been sent, and more would be airlifted. The President also ordered that in the critical areas, much needed supplies should be dropped by parachutes. He cautioned, however, that this kind of work should be well coordinated and planned to avoid losses.

In the evening, the President was conferred his fifth honorary doctorate degree at the University of the Philippines. Before a big crowd of friends and relatives of over 1,000 graduating students, the President received the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*. It was his second doctorate of laws title.

U. P. President Vidal A. Tan read the citation which extolled President Magsaysay as the “leader of the Filipino people, symbol of honesty and integrity, friend and defender of the common man, soldier and statesman of vision, champion of freedom, and defender of democracy.”

Mrs. Luz B. Magsaysay, who accompanied the President to the U. P. commencement ceremonies, placed the doctorate hood on the President and planted an affectionate kiss on her husband's left cheek after the rites. The First Lady was helped by Dr. Tan and Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., chairman of the U. P. board of regents.

The degree, granted last year to the President, was conferred only this evening because the President had asked for its deferment.

The President was also awarded a gold medal for encouraging arts and letters in the Philippines. Elias Lopez, president of the U. P. student council, presented the medal to the President.

President Magsaysay, in his commencement speech delivered after receiving the honorary degree, exhorted the youth to assume positions of leadership and to be constantly “aware of your rights and obligations under our form of government.”

In urging the youth to assume positions of leadership, the President pointed out that “in a democracy the title of leader is not something to be sought or to be seized. The title of leader, to have real meaning,” he said, “must be conferred upon an individual by a community. It must be conferred on the basis of evidence that the individual has those qualifications which make for useful and constructive leadership.”

The President's speech dwelt at length on the need for constructive leadership.

Leadership, he said, “is an honor, a great honor, since it expresses the confidence and respect of one’s fellow citizens. But even more than that, it imposes a grave obligation and a heavy burden of responsibility if the individual who earns the title tries seriously to live up to it.”

The President told the graduates that the country expects them to use their “skills in such a manner as to benefit their fellow countrymen.” (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 1817-1820, for the complete text of the President’s commencement address.)

President and Mrs. Magsaysay accompanied by Col. Napoleon D. Valeriano, senior military aide, left Malacañang at 5:55 p.m. and reached the U. P. grounds at exactly 6:15 p.m. Upon reaching the U. P. quadrangle, the President was shown to the room where he put on his gown.

The President addressed the graduates for 13 minutes. After addressing the graduates, the President returned to Malacañang.

President and Mrs. Magsaysay boarded the yacht *Pagasa* shortly after coming from the University of the Philippines’ commencement exercises in the evening.

President Magsaysay has ordered the reinstatement of all municipal officials appointed by the Quirino administration who had been removed without cause upon the change of administration, Malacañang announced today. Malacañang said these orders went out to various provincial governors all over the country since the Supreme Court ruling to the effect that appointive municipal official could not be removed for cause until their terms of office had run out.

These appointees, the court held, hold office permanently until the next regular elections and may not be removed except for cause and in the manner prescribed by law.

The orders for reinstatement of the affected officials have been issued by Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro and his assistants in the name of the President. Among the provincial governors who have been sent such orders were those of Zamboanga del Norte, Cotabato, Davao, Misamis Oriental, and Surigao.

April 6.— ALTHOUGH on his yacht cruising around Manila Bay with the First Lady this day, the President kept constant contact with Malacañang the whole day. From the yacht, the President issued directives to:

- (1) Budget Commissioner Dominador R. Aytona to release P140,000 to Misamis Occidental, with P100,000 allocated for the repair of the Tangub-Bonifacio road, P30,000 for the Ozamis City waterworks, and P10,000 for the Oroquieta port waterworks;
- (2) Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro to authorize Mayor Angel Medina of Ozamis City to construct temporary shelters inside a military reservation in that city for people who lost their homes;
- (3) Health Secretary Paulino Garcia to have a baby incubator airlifted to the Misamis Occidental Provincial Hospital to take care of babies born prematurely during the earthquakes in the province; and
- (4) Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez to authorize the Ozamis City treasurer to advance two months’ salary to city employees and teachers for the repair of their homes and the purchase of food and medicine.

Manuel Manahan, chairman of the Relief and Reconstruction Authority, sent in his second report from Dansalan City this day. His group is coordinating relief rehabilitation work in the disaster areas. Manahan listed 225 persons killed and 898 others injured, 14,985 families affected, 2,997 houses destroyed, and 382,737 hectares affected in Lanao province alone

The Social Welfare Administration had different casualty figures. It listed 416 persons killed, 792 injured, and 15 missing. It reported that 2,826 homes were destroyed.

Offers of aid and messages of sympathies continued to pour in from all parts of the country and from many countries of the world.

South Viet Nam set aside 100 tons of rice for the earthquake victims, despite the problem it is facing with the continuous flow of refugees from communist-ruled North Viet Nam.

John T. Cooper of the U. S. Veterans Administration offered to the President the services of four USVA doctors and a nurse to assist medical teams in Lanao.

The Bankers Association of the Philippines donated PLOOO for the relief operations. The check was handed to Assistant Executive Secretary Mariano A. Yenke, Jr.

The Chas. Pfizer and Company in New York shipped by air a \$20,000 consignment of terramycin and tetracycline for the earthquake victims. This was in addition to the donation of the company's office in Manila.

Charles A. Specht, president of Pfizer International, turned over the 750-pound shipment to Consul General Alejandro Galang in a ceremony at the New York International Airport.

"Operations Brotherhood", a Jaycee International assistance project will send a 90-man relief team to Mindanao after the Holy Week. It will be composed of doctors, dentists, nurses, social and public health workers, agriculturists, and field administrators.

From his Manila Bay cruise, the President decided to sail for Mindoro toward evening aboard the *Pagasa*.

April 7.—THE President cut short a leisurely cruise off Mindoro this morning and flew unexpectedly to the earthquake-stricken areas in Lanao to see how much government agencies had accomplished toward aiding victims of the one-week-old earthquake disaster in that province.

The President took off from San Jose, Mindoro aboard the plane *Pagasa* at 7:55 a.m. and landed at the Maria Cristina airport at 10:10 a.m. It was the President's third flying visit to Mindanao since a series of earthquakes rocked the island on April 1. He was accompanied by Mrs. Magsaysay and Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez.

Immediately upon arrival at the Maria Cristina airport, the President drove to Dansalan City and went on a survey of devastated towns along Lake Lanao. Manuel Manahan, RRA chairman, was among those who accompanied him in his survey trip.

Following his tour of the lake towns, the President said he was "quite satisfied" with the progress of the work being undertaken by government agencies. He found that these agencies had succeeded in preventing the outbreak of epidemic and famine among more than 100,000 persons affected and in coordinating the extension of material and medical aid to them. He also found that road graders and rollers had cleared the roads of landslides caused by the quakes.

The President congratulated the relief agencies for the speedy rehabilitation of the earthquake victims. He lauded Rafael Contreras, public works representative in the RRA, for his work. He observed that public works reconstruction was being carried in three shifts a day.

In an extemporaneous speech in Bacolod Grande, Lanao the President expressed his sympathy to the Moslems for their sufferings. He said he was happy to find that the people had recovered their composure and were no longer panicky in spite of their horrible experience.

The President assured the Bacolod residents that he would release more funds which would be needed for their rehabilitation.

In response, Hadji Shek Honaid Mongobaya led the Moslem population in prayers for long life for the President.

Upon the suggestion of Sens. Pelaez and Cabili, Rep. Alonto created a committee to start a national fund campaign for the reconstruction of a P450,000 mosque destroyed in Bacolod Grande. The President approved the proposal.

The President also visited Tugaya, where the earthquake was at its worst. Nearly 200 persons died in this town.

Upon returning to Camp Keithley, the Chief Executive received from Manahan a report on the disbursement of the P1 million fund released for the assistance of the earthquake victims.

Manahan said that P160,000 was released for the reconstruction of roads and bridges in Lanao; P100,000 for the repair of public buildings, including markets and schools; P90,000 for the repair of waterworks and buildings in Iligan City; and P55,000 for the repair of waterworks in Ozamis City. He also reported that a total of 3,390 families, composed of approximately 19,297 persons in 18 stricken districts in Lanao had already been served by government relief workers.

Among those who accompanied the President in his inspection tour of the lake towns, besides Senators Pelaez and Cabili, were Rep. Domocao Alonto, Gov. Salvador Lluch and Hadji Zaman Masakal, mayor of Bacolod Grande.

After inspecting the lake towns in Lanao, the President flew to Puerto Princesa in Palawan, where the yacht *Pagasa* was waiting for him. The President and the First Lady stayed at the Palawan capital for the night.

The President this day sent a message to newly arrived United States Ambassador and Mrs. Homer Ferguson welcoming them and wishing that they would both make the Philippines their second home.

The President, who was in Lanao supervising the relief work for the earthquake victims, wired the message through Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Raul S. Manglapus. The new United States ambassador to the Philippines and his wife arrived in Manila at 5 o'clock this morning.

The full text of the President's welcome message to Ambassador and Mrs. Ferguson, follows:

REGRET MY ABSENCE FROM MANILA ON YOUR AND MRS. FERGUSON'S ARRIVAL AS I AM IN LANAO INSPECTING PROGRESS OF THE RELIEF AND RECONSTRUCTION WORK. LOOKING FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOU. I WELCOME YOU AND MRS. FERGUSON HERE AND WISH YOU WILL BOTH MAKE THE PHILIPPINES YOUR SECOND HOME."

April 8.—MALACAÑANG did not hear from the President the whole day today. A Malacañang spokesman said the President was presumably cruising off Palawan coast in his yacht *Pagasa*.

Malacañang reinstated Vice-Mayor Nicanor G. Salaysay of San Juan, Rizal, today and ordered him to assume the post of acting mayor on Monday. Salaysay will act as mayor of San Juan owing to the suspension of Mayor Engracio Santos on an administrative charge.

First Councilor Mariano Domingo had been acting mayor of San Juan since Salaysay's suspension as acting mayor on December 8 last. Salaysay was cleared of an administrative charge that he allegedly tolerated gambling and prostitution in San Juan.

Gov. Wenceslao Pascual of Rizal relayed the Palace directive to Salaysay.

Malacañang announced the receipt this day of P1,000 from the Compania General de Tabacos (Tabacalera) as the company's donation to the earthquake victims in Mindanao. The donation was accompanied by a letter from the company's head office in Barcelona, Spain, expressing the company's deep sympathy for the victims of the disaster.

April 9.—THIS morning, the President received aboard the yacht *Pagasa* Nick Pedrosa, superintendent of the resettlement project of the NARRA at Panacan, Palawan, and Lt. Jose Legaspi, PC detachment commander, who sighted the presidential yacht anchored off the coast of Palawan.

President Magsaysay decided to inspect today the National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration-sponsored resettlement project at Panacan, Aborlan, Palawan, and the Armed Forces pre-fabricated school-house project.

Although the President's visit was unannounced, a large portion of 800 family settlers and old residents of Panacan were on hand to welcome the President.

The President inspected the area, inquiring from the settlers about their situation and needs. He was satisfied with the way houses had been constructed and distributed.

In his inspection of an area full of old farm and engineering equipment, the President directed Engineer Lantz of the board of liquidators to reappraise the heavy road equipment and to send the unserviceable ones to Manila for repair.

After hearing the settlers discuss their problems in an impromptu community assembly, the President:

- (1) Directed NARRA Manager Eligio Tavanlar to use cement in improving the present irrigation system in the settlement;
- (2) Directed Health Secretary Paulino Garcia to send immediately a physician and a nurse to augment the present medical staff in the area and to send medicines to insure proper and necessary medical care of the settlers;
- (3) Approved the construction of a P5,000 chapel in the settlement compound; and
- (4) Allocated one pre-fabricated schoolhouse to the settlement.

Upon hearing the complaint of a settler, one Mr. Espinosa, regarding the lack of funds for distribution to the new settlers sent by the NARRA main office, the President directed the PC provincial commander of Palawan, Capt. Paredes, to contact immediately the district forester at Puerto Princesa and have the lands south of the Panacan settlement project (Batan-Batang area) declared agricultural lands. He directed Superintendent Pedrosa to start distributing the lands to the new settlers as soon as possible.

For the benefit of settlers sent to this area by the old administration the President revoked the NARRA directors' policy of withdrawing land from settlers who are unmarried. This matter was brought up in the community assembly by Leoncio Lampera. The President also instructed Superintendent Pedrosa that subsistence to settlers be extended up to the time the settlers have harvested their crops.

The pre-fabricated schoolhouse project under Capt. Faustino Jimenez of the First Engineering Construction Group of the AFP impressed the President so much that he issued to Capt. Jimenez a commendation for work well done. The pre-fabricated schoolhouse mill is turning out 60 units a month. There are now ready 120 units for shipment to different localities. Commodore Jose Francisco, Navy chief, who was with the President on the inspection trip, was directed to expedite the sending of a Navy boat to Palawan so that shipment of the already finished schoolhouses could be made to places where they are most needed.

The President and his party left Panacan beach to board the yacht *Pagasa* about 12 noon, Saturday. A crowd followed the President to the beach and thanked him for his visit during which he had inquired about their needs.

The President this day received a message from Ambassador Homer Ferguson expressing the latter's "personal sympathy for the tragedy which has befallen your people and my best wishes in the relief and reconstruction work to which you are giving your personal attention."

The message, which was an answer to the President's welcome message to the new United States ambassador and his lady, was immediately wired to President Magsaysay, who was still on board the yacht *Pagasa*.

"Mrs. Ferguson and I are heart warmed by you and your people's cordially and already feel that we have found that second home of which you speak," Ambassador Ferguson told the President in the message.

Meanwhile, Australian Minister to the Philippines George Dumbar Moore informed Malacañang this day that Australian Prime Minister Richard G. Menzies will announce at 4 p.m. Sunday (Manila Time) the sending by the Australian Government of a gift of 3,000 Australia pounds, or around P15,000, as Australia's contribution to the relief fund of the earthquake victims. The information was wired to President Magsaysay aboard the yacht *Pagasa*.

The President directed Budget Commissioner Dominador R. Aytona to release immediately under Republic Act No. 1200 the amount of P200,000 for asphaltting the Iligan City airport in Lanao which had been damaged by the recent earthquake.

RRA Chairman Manuel Manahan said in a dispatch to Malacañang today that there was definitely no transportation problem in the earthquake-stricken areas. He said that the problem had been solved with the arrival of more vehicles. Manahan also reported that, according to official reports, the health situation among the disaster victims was almost normal. Vigilance was being maintained to improve health conditions, he added.

April 10.—AFTER a sixty-day Holy Week cruise and inspection trips the President returned to Malacañang about 8 o'clock this evening. Looking refreshed and rested, the President went to the Malacañang compound to greet his father, who celebrated his 81st birthday today in the official residence of Dr. Jose Corpus, personal physician of the Chief Executive.

After coming from his father's birthday party, the President retired early in preparation for another hectic week which begins tomorrow.

The President this day received a report from the Relief and Reconstruction Authority in Dansalan City on the total amount of funds so far expended for reconstruction in the earthquake-stricken areas in Mindanao.

Col. Antonio Chanco, chief of the AFP engineering corps, and Sotero H. Bay, accounting officer of the RRA, informed the President of the following allotments already expended in the area: for public works such as government buildings, schoolhouses, markets, municipal buildings in the areas around Tubod and Capatagan, the lake areas, and Iligan and Ozamis cities—P161,550 for the reconstruction of government buildings and waterworks at Iligan and Ozamis cities, P165,000; and for roads and bridges for Lanao and Occidental Misamis, P16,000. These bring to P342,550 the amount already spent for public works construction in the earthquake region.

The report further said that under the supervision of Capt. Mayuga and his signal corps men, there is now a very much improved communications system in the area. Radio and telephone facilities have already been installed where they are needed most. Mobile radio teams are standing by in strategic places ready to answer any call from the relief teams.

The report also said that close liaison has been established with the Philippine Air Force to coordinate the airlifting of the much-needed supplies for Mindanao.

April 11.—UPON receipt of reports that new strong earthquakes, varying in intensity from I to VI, rocked at least nine provinces in Mindanao and the Visayas early this morning, the President sent his financial aides to Mindanao this noon to determine how much more funds would be needed there.

The President directed Budget Commissioner Aytona and Malacañang Technical Assistant on Finance Rodolfo Andal to fly to Dansalan City in Lanao as soon as he was informed of the new quakes, to supervise personally the disbursement of the relief funds.

The President this morning received Sen. Tomas Cabili, who apprised him on the latest developments on the relief work in Mindanao. Cabili lauded the work of the various relief agencies operating in the area, saying they had succeeded in putting everything under control. He suggested that more assistant engineers be assigned to Lanao as the problem there now had become primarily the reconstruction of damaged public-works projects. The Senator also suggested that civic organizations which desire to extend aid to the earthquake sufferers should turn over their contributions to the relief agencies instead of going to the disaster areas in large numbers. He said that their going there would only pose problems of accommodation and would distract local officials from their relief activities.

The President also received other officials from the stricken areas who requested release of public works funds for the repair of damaged or weakened buildings as a result of the quakes. The officials included Rep. Reynaldo P. Honrado, who accompanied Mayor Ramon Kaimo of Surigao, Surigao, and Gov. Felipe B. Azcuna of Zamboanga del Norte.

The Chief Executive received callers at his study from 8 to 10:30 a.m. Among other visitors were Sen. Justiniano S. Montano; Reps. Wenceslao Lagumbay of Laguna, Felipe Garduque of Cagayan, Vicente L. Peralta of Sorsogon, and Celestino Juan of Nueva Ecija; and Mayor Crisanto Magno of Lupon, Davao.

The tremor which again rocked Dansalan City at 1:35 a.m. today sent city residents scampering out of their houses to seek the safety of the streets, according to a message received at Malacañang from PCAC Chairman Manuel P. Manahan, chairman of the Relief and Reconstruction Authority.

Manahan reported that the people had refused to return to their homes despite entreaties of the city mayor. He said that this latest tremor appeared to be the strongest of the recurrent aftershocks which had been rocking the city since the great tremors of April 1.

The President this afternoon received Rep. Domocao Alonto of Lanao, who confirmed reports of the occurrence of the latest earthquake in Dansalan City early this morning. Alonto had arrived from Dansalan City by PAL plane this noon.

Rep. Alonto told the President that, although some public and private properties had been destroyed by the latest tremor, no deaths had been reported so far. The extent of the damages, he said, could not be estimated at the time of his departure from Dansalan City. He told the President that the stricken people of Mindanao were grateful for the thoughtfulness of the President in making available to them immediate help after the disaster. He added that the Mindanao people felt now that they had a country and a government.

The President told Alonto that after conferring earlier in the morning with Sen. Tomas Cabili and Rep. Reynaldo P. Honrado of Surigao, Gov. Felipe B. Azcuna of Zamboanga del Norte, and Mayor Ramon Kaimo of Surigao, Surigao, he had decided to send Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona and Malacañang Financial Assistant Rodolfo P. Andal to Dansalan City to determine how much more funds were needed for public works construction and other needs in the stricken areas. The President said that he had also instructed Aytona and Andal today, to authorize on the spot release of available funds needed to relieve the sufferings of the people.

After the conference with Rep. Alonto, the President received again Sen. Tomas Cabin for further conference on the relief work being undertaken in Mindanao.

Meanwhile, Gov. Juan Alberto of Catanduanes wired the President that the local Chinese community of Virac was sending the President by telegraphic transfer the sum of P220 as their contribution to the relief fund for the Mindanao earthquake victims.

Gov. Bienvenido Ebarle of Zamboanga del Sur also wired the President saying that 80 per cent of the buildings affected by the last earthquake had already been repaired and that the estimated damage and cost of repair of public and private buildings, including waterworks in Molave, was P200,000 and P25,000 in Tukuran. He said that the Aurora-Molave national highway was already passable but the estimated damage and cost of repair was P100,000 and that over 500 destitute families were in dire need of immediate relief.

Mayor Angel Medina of Ozamis City wired the President that the relief distribution in the city was being done with the cooperation of the different civic organizations.

In another wire, Mayor Mendiola of Lala, Lanao, said that the people of his municipality were happy for having received the relief goods distributed to them by social and relief workers.

Earlier in the morning, President Magsaysay certified to Congress a bill amending the charter of the Central Bank which would permit the government to borrow from the CB for public works purposes. The bill was originally filed by Rep. Jacobo Gonzales of Laguna.

The President today continued to receive contributions from private firms and civic-spirited individuals in the form of cash and medicines for the earthquake sufferers in Mindanao and the Visayas.

In acknowledging the contributions, the President thanked the donors for their "humanitarian spirit." He assured them that their contributions would go a long way not only in alleviating the plight of the sufferers but also in giving them reassurance that in their present misfortune they are being remembered in their greatest hour of need.

Twenty-two boxes of anti-biotic drugs worth P60,000 were contributed by the Pfizer Laboratories of New York. The drugs, which consisted of 4,000 packages of Terramycin tablets and 8,000 bottles of Tetracycline capsules, were delivered to the President at Malacañang by John H. Shoaf, general manager of the Pfizer branch in Manila.

The President made arrangements for the distribution by relief agencies of another set of drugs being contributed by the Grossman Laboratories in Mexico through the Mexican legation in Manila. The drugs, consisting of 200 Leodine ampules and 1,000 Neotrasin tablets, are expected to arrive here via Pan American Airways this week.

Cash contributions acknowledged by the President today included those of Atlantic Gulf and Pacific company in the amount of P1,000 the Tabacalera, also P1, 000 Philippine Iron Mines, P500 and O. A. Boni of the National City Bank of New York branch in Manila, who sent in a check for P250.

The President in the evening signed the papers designating Gen. Carlos P. Romulo as chairman of the Philippine delegation to the Afro-Asian Conference in Bandung, Indonesia, and making him a member of the Cabinet without portfolio for the purposes of the conference.

The President said that he was considering the inclusion of one senator as a member of the delegation. He said he was going to consult Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez. Sr., on the matter.

The President this evening received a telegram from Cebu Citizen's Committee on Good Government Chairman Clavano and from Editors Association of the Philippines President Abellanosa from Cebu City, informing the Chief Executive that a joint resolution of the two associations had requested the immediate investigation of the alleged mauling of a *Mindanao Star* reporter. Cipriano Apolinario, in Cagayan de Oro City

The Cebu CCGG and EDAP said that they vigorously condemned the Army man's act of taking the law into his own hands and infringing on the freedom of the press.

A *Philippine News Service* report said that the local press club of Cagayan de Oro City had charged that Lt. Hernandez, aide to Col. Tirso Fajardo, 4th MA Commander, had allegedly broken into a party given by Mayor

Justiniano Borja and reportedly grabbed newsman Cipriano Apolinario and slugged him before anybody could move.

The President ordered Lt Bernardino Hernandez to be court-martialed for allegedly mauling a local newsman and creating public disturbance and scandal in Cagayan de Oro City.

April 12.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning had a breakfast conference with Secretary Carlos P. Romulo on the forth coming Asian-African conference at Bandung, Indonesia, which he will attend as chairman of the Philippine delegation. The conference opens on April 18.

During their talk which lasted about 45 minutes, Secretary Romulo rendered to the President a detailed report on Philippine affairs pending in Washington, D.C. He called at Malacañang at 7:30 a.m., shortly after his arrival in Manila from the United States aboard a Pan-American Airways plane.

The President received callers at his executive office from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Members of the Vietnamese relief team composed of doctors, nurses, and welfare workers called to pay their respects before proceeding to Mindanao to assist earthquake sufferers. During the call, Dr. Emmanuel Ho Quan Phuoc, head of the team, handed the President a P5,000-check from Vietnamese Premier Ngo Dinh Diem for the earthquake victims.

Narciso Pimentel, Jr., of Dramatic Philippines and Jose L. Dayrit, general manager of the Manila Grand Opera House, also handed a check for P825.90 for the earthquake fund. The amount represented the proceeds from one show of the stage play, *Martir sa Golgota*, shown in Manila during the Holy Week.

Another contribution in the amount of 81,000 was received from the Von Kohorn International Corporation, machinery manufacturers in New York. The check was delivered to the President by Benny Gaberman.

A delegation from Mindoro Oriental, headed by Gov. Francisco Infantado, requested funds for an irrigation project. Another delegation from Quezon, headed by Gov. Vicente Constantino and Rep. Manuel Enverga, also requested assistance for the construction of puericulture and rural health centers in their province.

Officers of the Quarters Allowance Claimants' Association, an organization of World War II veterans who had filed claims for quarter allowance, protested against alleged delay and discrimination in the payment of their claims. The group was accompanied by Rep. Rodolfo Ganzon of Iloilo.

Officers of the Philippine Medical Association headed by Dr. Mariano Icasiano invited the President to address their national annual convention to be held in Baguio City on April 27. The President accepted the invitation.

Officers of the Mori Tenants Association protested against the proposed construction of a children and maternity hospital in the Mori compound in Quezon City. Accompanied by Rep. Angel M. Castaño and Manila Councilor Marciano Santos, the tenants said that the construction of the hospital would displace many families which had built their homes in the compound and had been paying rentals to the government since 1946.

The President also received Fr. Renato Ziggotti, superior general of the Salesian's of Don Bosco in Turin, Italy, who called to pay his respects. Accompanied by Mons. Egidio Vagnozzi, papal nuncio, Dr. Ziggotti presented the President with a decorative wall lamp made by students of the Salesians vocational school in Victorias, Negros Occidental.

About 8:30 a.m., the President held a series of conferences with Malacañang assistants who consulted him on pending matters. During his conference with Technical Assistant Sofronio Quimson, he signed the nominations of Benito Macrohon as clerk of court of Rizal; Alejandro Mendoza as justice of the peace of Mandawe, Cebu; Guillermo Bandonill

as register of deeds of Mt. Province; Conrado C. Manago as justice of the peace of Tagub, Misamis Occidental; Jose Fabriga as register of deeds of Ozamis City; Teofilo Barsana and Ruben Santana as justices of the peace of Sabtang and Itbayat, Batanes, respectively; Ruperto Advincula as auxiliary justice of the peace of Dumarao, Capiz; and Felix Marasigan as justice of the peace of Macalelon, Quezon.

Other callers this morning included Reps. Augusto Francisco of Manila, Jose Roy of Tarlac, Serafin Salvador of Rizal, Pedro Lopez and Isidro Kintanar of Cebu, Alberto Aguja of Leyte, and Constancio Castañeda of Tarlac, and Gov. Dominador Chipeco of Laguna.

Further pledges of mutual cooperation between the Philippines and the United States in the attainment of their common objectives of peace and freedom were made by President Magsaysay and U. S. Ambassador Homer Ferguson during the latter's presentation of his letters of credence to the Philippine Chief Executive at impressive ceremonies held at the Malacañang ceremonial hall this afternoon.

The new American Ambassador who succeeded former Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance, in presenting his credentials, said: "I know that the objectives of peace and freedom are held in common by both our nations and that these objectives will constitute the criteria in our efforts to find the solutions to the problems which face us."

Continuing, he said: "I feel sure that, in this spirit, a pooling of the best thinking of our two nations can contribute successfully to the formulation of sound and effective policy."

Responding, President Magsaysay said that the Philippines shares, the same concern for peace and freedom and that "we feel in the magnificent efforts your country and people to secure that peace and freedom for all peoples and for all nations, our country jointly with yours, can contribute modestly in the formulation of a sound and effective policy."

The President added: "I gladly accept your pledge of cooperation in all matters of common interest to our two nations and your desire to maintain the atmosphere of cordiality and respect in the solution of our common problems."

Ambassador Ferguson in presenting his letters of credence to President Magsaysay, also presented the letter of recall of "my distinguished predecessor, the Honorable Raymond A. Spruance."

The presentation ceremony was among the best attended in Malacañang. The U. S. Ambassador arrived at the Malacañang grounds at 5 p.m. and was given full military honors by a unit of the presidential guards battalion. The U. S. and the Philippine national anthems were played.

Ambassador Ferguson was accompanied to Malacañang by Foreign Affairs Chief Protocol Officer Jose S. Estrada, Assistant Protocol Officer Pedro Angara Aragon. Col. Napoleon D. Valeriano, and the Ambassador's staff headed by Charles Barrows, deputy chief of mission, and Hayward Hill and Carl Boehringer, counselors.

After the exchange of speeches, the President and the American Ambassador shook hands and the President introduced Ambassador Ferguson to Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia and his staff and the members of the President's Cabinet. Afterwards the U. S. Ambassador also introduced the President to the members of his staff.

The President and the U. S. Ambassador then exchanged toasts.

Rear Admiral Hugh H. Goodwin this afternoon presented to President Magsaysay two checks in the sum of \$10,000 as contribution of the naval, marine, and civilian personnel of the U. S. Navy forces in the Philippines to the earthquake victims in Mindanao.

The President thanked Admiral Goodwin in the name of the people of the Philippines, especially the disaster victims. He said that the gesture would go a long way in strengthening further the friendship between the Philippines and the United States.

Admiral Goodwin presented the cash donation to the President immediately after American Ambassador Homer Ferguson had presented his letters of credence as new U. S. Ambassador to the Philippines to President Magsaysay at the Malacañang ceremonial hall.

In the letter accompanying the two checks, Admiral Goodwin said that the naval, marine, and civilian personnel of the U. S. Navy forces in the Philippines “wish to extend their sympathy to the worthy people of Lanao and Misamis provinces who had suffered so greatly from the recent earthquake in these areas.”

He said that the contribution serves as a symbol of the sentiments of the personnel serving at the U. S. Navy installation at Sangley Point and the U. S. Naval Base at Subic Bay.

President Magsaysay told newsmen this afternoon that he had sent for the records on the charges for alleged protection of vice filed with the NBI against Mayor Macario Asistio of Caloocan, Rizal.

The charges were filed by Maj. Fernando Chaingan, suspended police chief of the same town. The charges alleged that Asistio had been protecting gambling in Caloocan in return for protection money from the maintainers.

The President also told newsmen he had received a report on the situation in Formosa from Col. Benito Ebuena of the Philippine Air Force, who had gone to Taipei as the President's personal observer. The Chief Executive said he was going to study Ebuena's report, which the latter had personally delivered. He indicated that unclassified parts of the report might be released to the press later.

April 13.—OPENING the day with a breakfast conference with Sen. Claro M Recto, the President later conferred with leaders of Congress to formulate a united Philippine stand at the forthcoming Asian African conference in Bandung, Indonesia, which opens on Monday, April 18.

Sen. Recto left the Palace immediately without waiting for the meeting of congressional leaders to draft the Philippine position at the Asian-African conference. Both leaders refused to disclose the subjects taken up at their breakfast conference.

Present at the conference with congressional leaders, which lasted from 9:40 to 11 a.m., were Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr. Speaker Jose Laurel, Jr., Sen. Francisco A. Delgado and Rep Miguel Cuenco, chairmen, respectively, of the Senate and the House committees on foreign affairs; and Sen. Tomas Cabili and Rep. Diosdado Macapagal.

Also present were Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary

Carlos P. Garcia, Gen. Carlos P. Romulo, who heads the Philippine delegation to the conference, Ambassador Felino Neri, and Press Secretary J. V. Cruz

After the conference, the President proceeded to the Council of State room, where he presided over the regular weekly meeting of the Cabinet.

He also conferred later with Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol who consulted him on some pending matters in the Department of National Defense.

The President entered the Cabinet meeting. Sen. Tomas Cabili came in the Cabinet room with President and Romulo and also stayed for some time.

The President and his Cabinet sought ways to help solve unemployment by appointing a committee to study a practical manner of employing the greatest possible number of men to work on road construction and irrigation projects of the government.

The President named Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta as chairman of the committee with Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa, Economic Coordination Administrator Alfredo Montelibano, and Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, as members.

In forming the committee to study how to provide more jobs, some Cabinet members had in mind the formation of large labor groups to be employed in the government's road construction and irrigation projects. Although no concrete plans as to the nature of these labor groups were arrived at during the meeting, some Cabinet members were thinking along the lines of an organization similar to the civilian construction corps (CCC) organized before World War II in the United States.

Details of this plan, like salaries and the most efficacious way of employing the most people, were left to the committee to draft. It was also believed that legislation might be necessary in carrying out the project. The President told the committee to study the matter carefully and submit its report as early as possible.

The Cabinet also enlarged the membership of the existing committee studying the PHILCUSA-FOA training grant for the fiscal year 1955 and directed the committee to study further how the appropriations being spent for the trainees could best be allotted. It was the feeling of the Cabinet that some of the studies which trainees are supposed to pursue in the United States are not very essential and that such appropriations could be diverted to other more urgent projects of the government.

As constituted now, the enlarged committee studying this matter is composed of Economic Coordination Administrator Alfredo Montelibano as chairman, with Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta, Health Secretary Paulino Garcia, (he Executive Secretary, and Education Undersecretary Martin Aguilar, Jr., as members. The committee will meet in the Council of State room on Monday (April 18) at 3 p.m.

At the Cabinet meeting, the President signed the plans for the P2 million buildings for the Manila International Airport. Secretary Orosa said that bids for the construction of the buildings would be called soon so that work could start at an early date.

The President was impressed by the modern lines of the buildings and remarked that when finished they would rank with the most modern airports in the world.

Present at the signing of the plans were Consulting Architect Federico S. Irujo, the Architect Paterno Alcodia, Assistant CAA Administrator Emilio Asistores and Chief of Airport Juan Paraiso, Jr.

The Cabinet meeting ended past 12 noon.

At about 4 p.m. the President crossed the Pasig River in a launch and had a 30-minute golf practice. He was accompanied by his aide. Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo. Afterwards, he motored to the V. Luna General Hospital for his regular annual medical check-up.

Malacañang announced today that the President had not designated anybody to act as executive secretary during the time that Executive Secretary Castro is on sick leave. Assistant Executive Secretary Mariano A. Yenke, Jr. has been holding his office in Secretary Castro's room and signing papers as assistant executive secretary. Secretary Yenke attended the Cabinet meeting this morning in place of Secretary Castro.

The air-conditioning unit in the public reception room in the Executive Office which had been ordered dismantled by President Magsaysay some days ago, has been sold at P22,350.00 to the Aguinaldo Development Corporation, Malacañang announced today.

Dan Aguinaldo, president of the corporation which had bought the air-conditioning unit, sent the President Security Bank and Trust Company check No. 367906 covering the full amount spent in the installation of the unit. The amount of P22,350 paid for the unit covers down to the last centavo the sum that had been spent for it by the government.

The air-conditioning system was installed in the public reception room in the Executive Office for the benefit of the hundreds of visitors, mostly provincial folk, seeking appointment with the President and other Malacañang officials.

A donation of medical drugs for the earthquake victims in Mindanao was received by Malacañang today, from the Parke, Davis and Company. The donation, consisting of 10,000 Chloromycetin capsules, 50,000 camoquin tablets, 1,100 Chloromycetin ointment, and 288 paladoc vitamin supplement, was handed over to PCAC Chairman Manuel P. Manahan and Dr. Jose Corpus, physician to the President, by R. G. Dean and Jose A. Macatangay, sales executive and director of medical service, respectively, of Parke, Davis and Company.

April 14.—FOLLOWING a hectic schedule the whole day today, the President received no less than 500 callers in the morning and attended three important occasions which lasted until late in the evening. He even acted as guide to a group of 200 public school teachers whom he showed around Malacañang up to past noon.

The President began receiving callers about 8:30 a.m. Even after he had shown the teachers around the presidential residence, a senator a governor, and several people were still waiting to see him. He finished receiving all his callers past 1 p.m., when he retired for lunch.

The President assured 200 public school teachers gathered in Manila for their annual convention that he would certify to Congress the urgency of a bill appropriating P17 million for the readjustment of the salaries of teachers. He said that he would sign the bill immediately after it is passed by Congress.

The President also promised the public school teachers that he would study and act on the following problems that have been brought up before him:

- (1) Delay in the payment of the salaries of teachers;
- (2) Immediate reconstruction and repair of public school buildings in earthquake-affected Mindanao;
- (3) Delay in the distribution of pre-fabricated schoolhouses for the barrios;
- (4) Introduction of more junior and senior teachers examinations to eliminate “deadwood” teachers now in the service;
- (5) Separation from the service of teachers who have rendered 30 years of service; and
- (6) Putting up of Liberty wells in public schools without artesian wells.

Before listening to their problems, the President told the teachers that he had decided on increasing the salaries of teachers long ago, in the event that he was elected. The President added, however, that the real problem was how to raise funds to put up the P17 million required by the bill.

“We must have community gatherings to convince the people to pay all their taxes and you can help a lot in this program,” the Chief Executive told the teachers.

After talking to the teachers, the President took them around Malacañang and showed them his bedroom, the ante-room, study room, music room state reception room, and the bedroom of Teresita, the President’s oldest daughter.

The teachers shouted and sang “Mabuhay” as they were personally led by the President from one room to another. The Chief Executive showed them the paintings and pictures that were inside. One of the teachers said: “I had been here before during the time of some of our previous Presidents but this is the first time I have been shown the bedrooms around the Palace by the President himself.”

Mrs. Luz Magsaysay joined the teachers later when she learned that the President was showing them around. She greeted them and shook hands with them.

The teachers were accompanied to Malacañang by Rep. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing, chairman of the committee on education of the House of Representatives. The spokesman of the delegation was Pangasinan Division Superintendent of Schools Vitaliano Bernardino, president of the Philippine Public Schools Teachers Association.

Among the 500 callers of the President were delegations from the Government Service Insurance System, the National Federation of Women’s Clubs, the NASSCO Labor Union, the winners of the *Manila Chronicle*’s student goodwill tour contest, the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation, and the labor delegation from British North Borneo. The President also received persons with individual problems who sought his help.

At the request of the delegation of the National Federation of Women’s Clubs the President consented to be the guest speaker at the celebration of the golden jubilee of the feminist movement in the Philippines to be held at the Manila Hotel on June 19. The Chief Executive will donate the medals for the awards to be made on the basis of leadership in the feminist movement in the country. He will also present the medals to the awardees.

Members of the NFWC who called on the President were Mesdames Conception Henares, Enriqueta Benavides, Trinidad F. Legarda, Pilar H. Lim. Geronima T. Pecson, and Concepcion Aguila.

Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation President Jorge Vargas accompanied Avery Brundage, president of the International Olympic Committee who paid his respects to the Chief Executive. Brundage is on a world-wide tour and has just been to Australia, where he saw the preparations being made for the next Olympic games in 1956.

Brundage told the President that among all the countries he visited, it is only in Russia where physical and mental development is undertaken as a political weapon. Athletes in Russia, according to Brundage, gather in Moscow once a year to participate in a nationwide meet and are fed with political ideas before the games start. With Vargas and Brundage were Manuel Elizalde and former Congressman Simeon Toribio.

The President also received J. M. McCartney of British North Borneo, who is here for a conference with officials of the Department of Labor regarding the immigration of Filipino laborers to Borneo. Accompanied by National Employment Service Commissioner D. Mohammad de Venancio, McCartney came to Malacañang with two other North Borneo officials.

The winners of the *Manila Chronicle* student goodwill tour contest also called on the President to bid goodbye. He congratulated the winners and said that they were given a “unique opportunity.” A movie film was taken of the occasion. Accompanying the winners were Bienvenido Calleja, Francisco de Leon and Liborio Gatbonton, all of the *Chronicle* staff.

A delegation of about 30 members of the GSIS Employees Association requested the President’s help in their desire to be represented on the board of trustees of the GSIS. The President told them to seek the filing of a bill creating another position on the GSIS board of trustees. Spokesman of the delegation was Feline Lopez, president of the association.

Another caller was Carl Furer president of the Kermac Ceramics Incorporated, who showed the Chief Executive samples of the chinaware that they would manufacture here. Furer told the President that his company would employ the services of German experts for the chinaware factory. The President was much pleased by the

introduction here of a chinaware factory. With Furer were N. Y. Orosa and E. Chanco, treasurer and engineer, respectively, of the company.

Members of the Philippine Sportswriters Association handed to the President a P1,000-check for the medical treatment of Frank Malinao, a Filipino boxer in India. The President, however, informed the sports-writers that Malinao had already died of cancer a few days ago. The check was returned by the President to Virgilio Pantaleon, spokesman of the PSA. He told them to consider spending the money for bringing the remains of Malinao to Cebu, his native province.

Another group which sought aid from the President was composed of some members of the National Music Council of the Philippines. They sought funds for their activities. The Chief Executive advised them to try” first to solicit financial aid from private individuals and concerns. Among the members of the NMCP who saw the Chief Executive were Julio Esteban Anguita, Lt. Col. Antonino Buenaventura, and Lumen Policarpio.

A delegation from the NASSCO Labor Union also requested the President’s help in solving their problems with the NASSCO management. The Chief Executive told them to sit down first with the management and see him afterwards. Head of the delegation was Pedro Dionisio.

Other callers of the President included Sen. Justiniano S. Montano; Reps. Luis Hora of Mountain Province, Erasmo Cruz of Bulacan, and Apolinario Apacible of Batangas; and Rizal Governor Wenceslao Pascual.

The President this day announced his policy of increasing credit facilities to agriculturists and of giving priority to small fanners in line with the economic and rural development programs of his administration.

The announcement was made during the call this morning of a delegation from the Philippine Chamber of Commerce headed by Carlos Ledesma, chamber president. During the call, the President also asked House Majority Floor Leader Arturo M. Tolentino, who happened to be present, to help expedite passage of a bill pending in Congress appropriating P30 million for the construction of coconut centrals in coconut regions.

Rep. Leon Guinto, Jr., one of the bill’s sponsors, said that the measure would improve the quality of Philippine copra and industrialize the coconut industry by the manufacture of building materials from its by-products. The chamber delegation was accompanied to Malacañang by Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma.

Gaudencio Antonino of Nueva Ecija called on the President to present a personal check for P2,000 as his contribution to the earthquake fund.

Two employees of the Bureau of Printing. Juan Flores, a monotype keyboard operator, and Pacifico Advincula, called to follow up a petition signed by some 285 employees of the bureau and previously filed in Malacañang. The petition protested against alleged discrimination in the payment of yearly bonuses granted by law to craftsmen of the bureau.

In the afternoon, President and Mrs. Magsaysay received at Malacañang, Prime Minister and Madame Pibul Songgram of Thailand. The Prime Minister is on a three-day state visit in Manila. He and his lady are house guests of President and Mrs. Magsaysay.

Prime Minister and Madame Songgram and their entourage, accompanied by Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary and Mrs. Carlos P. Garcia from the airport, arrived at Malacañang grounds at about 5 p.m. The President had sent Maj. Pat Garcia, his aide, to meet the Thailand Prime Minister at the airport.

The Prime Minister was given military honors by the presidential guard battalion after which he was escorted up the Palace by Vice-President Garcia.

President and Mrs. Magsaysay stood at the head of the Malacañang front stairway waiting to receive their guests. The Vice-President introduced Thailand's Prime Minister to the President and to the First Lady. Madame Pibul Songgram and the other members of the entourage were also introduced to the President.

The President then escorted Prime Minister Pibul Songgram to his study room while Mrs. Magsaysay escorted Madame Pibul Songgram to the music room.

The President and the Prime Minister exchanged amenities, with the President inquiring about the trip. Striking similarities between the Philippines and Thailand, including the people and their products, were mentioned. The President then escorted the Prime Minister to the music room, joining the party of the First Lady and Madame Pibul Songgram. Refreshments were served.

Meanwhile, the President carried on his conversation with the Thailand Prime Minister. In the course of the conversation, the President made exploratory remarks suggesting that the Philippines barter its sugar with Thailand's rice. It was understood that the Vice-President would carry on further the talks regarding this matter. The Prime Minister told the President that his country exported among others copra, timber, castor oil, and tapioca.

The President thanked the Prime Minister for the courtesies which had been accorded Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia and his party when the Vice-President made a state visit to Thailand during the SEATO conference in Bangkok.

The President and the First Lady then escorted Prime Minister and Madame Pibul Songgram to their living quarters in Malacañang. The other members of the entourage were taken to the Manila Hotel where they would stay.

After receiving his distinguished house guests, the President motored to the Philippine Navy headquarters to attend the turn-over of the dredge *Damayan* by the FOA to the Philippine Government.

The President delivered a brief speech of acceptance of the dredge on behalf of the Republic, while the First Lady broke a bottle of champagne on the hull of the dredge as she christened it.

The President in his acceptance speech said that the giving of the dredge as a gift by the United States was not only a symbol of the special friendship "between our two peoples but also a most practical and effective tool for our economic betterment."

He said that with the dredge, the country would be able to tackle one of the most stubborn problems confronting it, the problem of flood control. He added that annual losses from floods in terms of lives, property, and manhours are staggering and that the dredge "will help or cut down these losses considerably."

The President said that the turn-over of the dredge was another example of the special partnership that binds the Philippines and the United States together.

Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa made the introductory remarks while Col. Harry A. Brenn, chief of FOA in the Philippines, delivered the "turn-over" speech.

Brenn said: "We all know, Mr. President, that you do not look to outside assistance alone to help your people. You have recognized the investments in dollars and in technical assistance which your partners in the free world have gladly made. But you have also recognized the essential fact that real progress and solid achievement will not come from outside sources but from the Filipinos themselves."

He added that the Philippines' annual economic losses of around P40 million due to ravages of uncontrolled floods is too serious to go unchallenged. He said, "We, partners in the economic development program are meeting that challenge by bringing in this dredge and putting it to work in the heart of the worst flood area."

“Our faith that it will accomplish its purposes is implicit in the very name we have given it—*Damayan*—cooperation... the partnership of two free peoples who help themselves by working together for the greater good of both.” the President said.

The President and the First Lady arrived at the Navy compound at 5:55 p.m. They were greeted by Public Works Secretary Orosa, American Ambassador Homer Ferguson, and Col. and Mrs. Brenn. The short program was held in the Navy social hall while the christening ceremony was held on a wharf, alongside of which the dredge was anchored.

The First Lady was aided by ladies of the FOA representatives headed by Mrs. Brenn. As the dredge was about to be christened, the American Flag flying at the dredge’s masthead was lowered to the tune of the American National Anthem and was replaced by the Filipino Flag as the Philippine National Anthem was played.

The President and the First Lady boarded the dredge where refreshments were served. The President first inspected the different parts of the dredge accompanied by Secretary Orosa, Ambassador Ferguson, Col. Brenn, and Commodore Jose M. Francisco, chief of the Navy. Later he joined Mrs. Magsaysay at the deck of the dredge.

Then the President and the First Lady returned to Malacañang.

Earlier in the afternoon, the President received John L. Peters president of World Neighbors, Inc., and Louis W. Gehring, business manager, who paid a courtesy call on the President. They were accompanied by Sen. Tomas Cabili. Peters and Gehring were interested in the rural improvement program of the President. They said that their association had given help to a similar project in Midsayap, Cotabato.

In the evening, the President and the First Lady gave a state dinner at the Palace in honor of Prime Minister and Madame Pibul Songgram. The dinner was attended by high diplomatic and consular representatives and the local foreign service officials, congressional leaders, and members of the Cabinet.

Prime Minister Pibul Songgram of Thailand tonight was awarded the *Raja of the Order of Sikatuna*, reserved exclusively by the Philippine Government for chiefs of state, at the close of the state dinner offered by President and Mrs. Magsaysay in honor of Premier and Madame Pibul Songgram.

The award was given in recognition of the Thai Premier’s “extraordinary services in fostering the maintenance of close friendly relations between the Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of Thailand.”

Malacañang reiterated in the evening that no newspaperman or radio man is on the Malacañang payroll. This announcement was made in view of reports, represented as official, reaching Malacañang that some newspapermen and radio men were paid from contingent funds of the President.

Leon O. Ty, staff member of the *Philippines Free Press*, saw the President in the morning and complained against insinuations that he was on the Malacañang payroll. Ty asked that the report be denied because it was not true. Rafael Yabut, a radio newscaster, also came to Malacañang a few days ago with the same request.

Rodolfo P. Andal, Malacañang financial assistant, and Salvador C. Dumaual, representative of the General Auditing Office in the Office of the President, today officially wrote the press secretary giving the information that Messrs. Ty and Yabut are not on the Malacañang payroll. Andal and Dumaual added that no newspaperman or radio man is under the employ of Malacañang.

The President this day fired the justice of the peace of La Paz, Leyte and referred the papers of the case to the Department of Justice for possible institution of disbarment and criminal proceedings against the respondent.

In Administrative Order No. 112, the President removed from office Apolinario P. Oriel, who had been charged with: (1) abuse of authority, (2) bribery, (3) inducing a married couple to commit immorality, (4) extorting excessive amounts from the heirs of deceased soldiers, and (5) mysterious accumulation of wealth.

The respondent official was found guilty of charges 3 and 4, but innocent of the rest of the charges. He had been investigated by one of the then district judges of Leyte whose findings and recommendations were concurred in by Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason.

Investigation also revealed that the respondent in 1947, 1948, 1950, and 1951 had received a total sum of P1,260 from the war widow of Longinus Maano out of a total benefit of about P11,000 received by her from the Philippine Veterans Board and the U. S. Veterans Administration for his services in prosecuting her claims. Furthermore, the respondent in 1953 received a total of around P6,000 for similar services out of the total amount of P16,000 received by the heirs of the late soldier, Emilio Denaya, from the U. S. Veterans Administration. Included in this sum was P1,200 which he had promised to return to the Veterans Administration as supposed overpayment but which apparently went to his pocket.

Although Oriel had denied receiving the amounts, the President said: "After a review of the record, I am convinced that he did receive the exorbitant amounts involved for prosecuting the claims of said heirs, thereby violating Republic Act No. 145."

April 15.—EARLY in the morning, the President remembered the seventh anniversary of the death of President Manuel A. Roxas by sending a wreath to the mausoleum of the founder of the Liberal Party. he also ordered an honor guard mounted at the tomb of the late President in the North Cemetery.

The President limited himself to a few callers. He spent a considerable part of the morning in conference with Malacañang assistants who consulted him on pending matters.

During a brief conference with Assistant Executive Secretary Mariano A. Yenke Jr. the President disapproved the proposed detail of Col. Florencio A. Medina of the AFP medical corps to attend a special course on radioisotope at Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies in Tennessee, U. S. A. He also disapproved the proposed detail of three Air Force officers to Dr. Manuel V. Olympia of the CAA, who will represent the Philippines at the meeting of medical experts on hearing and visual requirements to be convened by the International Civil Aviation Organization in Paris, France, this month.

The President's morning callers included Sen. Jose P. Laurel, Budget Commissioner Dominador R. Aytona, and Rep. Carlos Hilado of Negros Occidental, who informed the Chief Executive of a conflagration raging in the business center of Bacolod City. The President immediately dispatched SWA Administrator Pacita Madrigal Warns to the scene of the disaster in order to look into the relief needs of the victims.

President Magsaysay today contributed to a campaign to raise funds for the reconstruction of Moslem houses of worship and cultural centers destroyed in Mindanao by the earthquakes.

"The recent disaster in Mindanao brought about not only terrific loss of lives and property but also the destruction of temples and other centers symbolic of the faith of our brethren, the Moros," the President said. "Our program of relief has so far attended to the material needs of the devastated communities but little has been done to give them spiritual uplift which, I believe, is just as essential if we are to restore tranquility among the Moro population of Mindanao."

The occasion was the call this morning of members of the Moslem Temples Reconstruction Aid Committee. The President formally opened the drive by contributing P500 to the drive.

With Sen. Tomas Cabili as chairman, the committee is composed of Rep. Domocao Alonto of Lanao as vice-chairman, former Sen. Geronima T. Pecson as executive vice-chairman, Alfonso Calalang as treasurer. Raul Beloso

as secretary, and the following members: Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez, Rep. Luminog Mangelen of Cotabalo, Rep. Ombra Amilbangsa of Sulu, Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa, Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevosio,

Brig. Gen. Eulogio Balao, Dr. Gumersindo Garcia, Manuel Gonzalez, Luis Araneta, Dr. Yu Khe Thai, and Conchita Sunico.

The President this afternoon conferred with RFC Chairman Eduardo Romualdez and gave instructions to facilitate the granting of loans needed in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Bacolod City. It was reported that the whole business section of the city, including the local RFC building had been gutted by the fire. The President said that he was interested in the speedy rehabilitation of Bacolod City.

Fearing that there would be a scarcity of prime commodities, especially rice, the President ordered NARIC General Manager Juan Chioco to ship immediately enough rice to be sold at low prices to the fire victims. It was directed that if the NARIC had available rice stocks in its bodegas near the scene of the fire, these rice stocks should be sent first to Bacolod City.

To prevent the hoarding of prime commodities like palay, rice, corn, and building or construction materials, and profiteering in these goods, the President told Judge Salvador Esquerra to prepare immediately for his signature a proclamation declaring the existence of a public calamity in Bacolod City. The signing of the proclamation will authorize the Constabulary and the police force to seize hoarded stocks or those sold at exorbitant prices. Only last April 1, the Chief Executive had issued a similar proclamation in the earthquake-stricken areas in Mindanao.

The President was informed that there was looting and pillaging in the fire area and that the police were helpless to stop this vandalism. Consequently, the Chief Executive directed Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff, to reinforce the Constabulary force in Bacolod City to normalize the peace-and-order situation. The President told Gen. Vargas that if the police force in Bacolod City could not cope with the peace-and-order situation, it would be necessary to place it under the Constabulary.

At about 4 p.m., President Magsaysay received top officials of the Manila Cordage Company with whom he conferred on matters pertaining to the abaca and rope industry.

Those who called on him were H. P. Strickler, president, and John L. Leach, sales manager, respectively, of the Manila Cordage Company. The President received his visitors in his ante-room.

The President today issued Proclamation No. 143, declaring the period from April 18 to 24 of every year as Water Conservation Week in order to apprise the public of the danger arising from the indiscriminate use and wastage of water during summer. The President authorized the general manager of the Metropolitan Water District to take appropriate measures to carry out the objectives of the proclamation.

April 16.—THE President did not receive any callers today. He spent the first part of the morning going over pending state papers with Assistant Executive Secretary Mariano A. Yenke, Jr.

Shortly before 9 a.m., the President left the Palace for the Philippine Air Force base operations at Nichols Field, where he inspected the maintenance shops, accompanied by Col. Augusto Jurado, wing commander, AFP 410th Air Materiel Wing. Others who showed the President around the hangars were Majors Marte Iglesias, Anselmo Lazo, and Avelino Mata. The President had thought of flying to fire-ravaged Bacolod City but did not do so because of urgent matters awaiting his attention at Malacañang.

Returning to Malacañang at about 10:30, he conferred with Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, who had just returned the previous evening from Bacolod City. He reported to the President that all the rice stocks were destroyed by the conflagration which razed the main business section of the city. He informed the President that the latter's instructions for relief of victims were being carried out. Crisol said shipments of NARIC rice were being rushed to Bacolod City to offset any possibility of hoarding and profiteering.

Crisol also said that the President's proclamation declaring the city in a state of public calamity and his decision to liberalize granting of RFC loans to the fire victims had been welcomed by the people of Bacolod City. The President today signed Proclamation No. 147, declaring the existence of a public calamity in the city of Bacolod. The President's proclamation enforces the provisions of Act No. 4164. It prohibits and penalizes the hoarding of palay, rice, building or construction materials, and other urgent commodities.

The proclamation authorizes the Constabulary commanders of Negros Occidental to seize any stock of palay, rice, corn, and other prime commodities when they are concealed or hoarded for purposes of speculation or profiteering.

In the afternoon the President received the decoration of the *Knight Grand Cordon of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant*, the highest decoration conferred by the government of Thailand.

Thailand's Prime Minister Pibul Songgram gave the decoration on behalf of the king of Thailand. He presented to President Magsaysay the insignia of the Order during a brief but solemn ceremony held at the Malacañang ceremonial hall. At the same time, the Prime Minister made his formal farewell speech thanking President and Mrs. Magsaysay for the "very cordial welcome given to my wife and myself by the government of the Republic of the Philippines and the generous hospitality extended to us and the Thai members of the goodwill mission."

After receipt by the President of the insignia, the President thanked the Prime Minister for the honor which, he said, was a "renewed expression of the close and enduring friendship that happily exists between our two countries."

After the ceremony, Lieut. Gen. Mom Luang Kharb Kunjara, secretary general and aide-de-camp to the Prime Minister, announced that the Prime Minister had donated 200,000 bahts, equivalent to P20,000 as his contribution to the fire victims of Bacolod City.

Later in the evening, the President directed that the decoration be deposited with the Department of Foreign Affairs. Formal acceptance of the decoration will await congressional approval as provided in the Constitution.

The Prime Minister delivered a prepared speech as he presented the insignia of the *Order of the White Elephant*. He said:

"His Majesty the King. My August Sovereign, holding high esteem the excellent and amicable relations between the Republic of the Philippines and Thailand, which have now become increasingly close and cordial under Your Excellency's high and wise leadership, has graciously been pleased to confer upon Your Excellency the *Knight Grand Cordon of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant*.

"At this auspicious moment it is my happiest task that I have the honour now to present to Your Excellency the Insignia of the Order, and to extend to Your Excellency my sincerest congratulations on behalf of the Thai Government for the very high honour thus accorded to Your Excellency by my August Master."

After receiving the insignia placed in a cardinal red colored box, the President thanked the Prime Minister. The President said:

"I thank Your Excellency and through you. His Majesty the King of Thailand, for this high honor which I regard as being conferred upon my humble person as well as upon the people of the Philippines.

"I am therefore proud and happy to receive it as such and as a renewed expression of the close and enduring friendship that happily exists between our two countries."

Then the Thailand Prime Minister read a prepared speech of farewell and thanks. He said that his stay in Manila, although a short one, had been the initial step in the fulfillment of "my long cherished desire to pay a visit to Your Excellency who is well known as a staunch supporter of democracy and to have closer view of your country as well as closer contact with your people."

After the presentation of the insignia, Madame Pibul Songgram presented Mrs. Magsaysay with a souvenir gift consisting of a fancy mirror and comb placed in a gift box.

The President and the Thai Premier shook hands. The Prime Minister then shook the hands of Mrs. Magsaysay and the other officials of the Philippine Government present at the ceremony. He was followed by Madame Pibul Songgram and the rest of the entourage in exchanging handshakes.

The ceremony over, the Thai Premier made a ceremonial bow and left for their living quarters in Malacañang.

Earlier in the day, President Magsaysay offered the yacht *Pagasa* to Prime Minister Pibul Songgram and his party for a cruise to Corregidor. They were accompanied by Vice-President and Mrs. Carlos P. Garcia. The party returned to Malacañang in the afternoon in time for the presentation of the decoration to the President.

The President has ordered Constabulary control of Bacolod City to stop looting and other forms of lawlessness in the fire-ravaged city, Malacañang announced in the evening.

The President telephoned his order this afternoon to Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff. He directed Vargas to send Constabulary forces to Bacolod City to take over peace-and-order responsibilities. The local police force will serve under PC control.

The President took this move in the wake of reports that looting and vandalism have broken out in the ravaged city.

April 17.—WHILE the President was having breakfast with his family. Col. Antonio Chanco, chief of the AFP corps of engineers and deputy chairman of the Relief and Reconstruction Authority, arrived.

Col. Chanco submitted a partial report of RRA relief work in the earthquake-stricken areas in Mindanao. Attached to it were long statements and itemized disbursements.

The Presidents went over the report, but later asked Chanco to brief him on the gist of the report.

Col. Chanco reported to the President that distribution of foodstuffs had been stopped, as the areas were already saturated with relief commodities. With the repair of damaged roads, he added, prime commodities could now move normally from one place to another. Chanco estimated that about P120,000 worth of relief goods in the form of rice, dried fish, canned goods, medicines, and light building materials had been distributed to some 84,000 persons, or about 16,000 families, during two weeks of RRA operations. Most of these families were residents of towns around Lake Lanao like Tugoya, Bacolod Grande, Ganassi, and Masiu. These had been hardest hit by the earthquakes.

With the relief phase of its work over, the RRA is now concentrating on the repair or reconstruction of damaged public works, such as roads bridges, public buildings, water systems, and portworks. The entire area had already been surveyed by RRA engineers headed by Division Engineer Rafael Contreras, who had made estimates for the rehabilitation of damaged structures.

Chanco reported that a total of P667,450 had been allocated for three of the hardest hit provinces: namely, Lanao, which had been allocated P504,450; Misamis Occidental, which had been given P108,000; and Zamboanga del Sur, whose allocation was P55,000. About P200 000 of these estimated expenses will come from regularly appropriated public works fund and the rest will be disbursed from the President's contingent funds.

Results of the survey indicated that previous reports on damages by local officials and residents had been somewhat exaggerated, probably because of hysteria, Chanco observed in his report. More sober estimates had been arrived at after a series of conferences among local engineers and engineers assigned with the RRA, including Demetrio Capuyoc, Rizal district engineer, who had been temporarily detailed to the stricken areas.

The President congratulated members of the RRA for a job well done. He was pleased to learn that, pending accurate estimates of actual damages and formal allocation of funds for their repair, the RRA engineers had gone ahead with the reconstruction of roads and bridges to restore normalcy to the areas as soon as possible.

The President conferred with Col. Chanco for almost one hour. He did not receive any other caller.

After his conference with the RRA deputy chairman, the President about 10:30 a.m. boarded his car and left Malacañang. He returned for lunch at 12:30 p.m.

April 18.—CANCELLING his scheduled callers this morning, the President closeted himself in his private study where he had a series of conferences with Malacañang assistants who consulted him on pending matters. Among his few visitors early in the morning were Sens. Claro M. Recto and Justiniano S. Montano and some representatives, including Celestino Juan of Nueva Ecija, Felipe Garduque of Cagayan, Leon Guinto, Jr., of Quezon, and Pio Duran and Justino Nuyda of Albay.

The President designated Mario Marcos, an economist of the Central Bank, as member of the Philippine delegation to the Asian-African conference in Bandung, Indonesia, on the recommendation of CB Governor Miguel Cuaderno. Marcos replaces Leonides S. Virata, who cannot leave for the conference owing to an illness of a member of his family.

The President decided to designate Marcos in the course of his conference with Ambassador Felino Neri this morning during which they went over some cables from Secretary Carlos P. Romulo, head of the Philippine delegation now in Bandung.

About 10:30 a.m., the President flew to Bacolod City to view the ruins of the P25 million fire in that area.

President Magsaysay today released P100,000 in Bacolod City to be used to clean the debris before starting reconstruction of the fire-razed buildings of the city.

The President released the amount immediately after he had heard the complaints of hundreds of laborers lined up on the streets of the city clamoring to be given jobs in the reconstruction work. From the Bacolod airport where the President arrived in his plane *Pagasa*, the President motored directly to the burned section of the city, arriving there at 12:55 p.m. Here he found hundreds of people lining the streets six-deep, asking to be taken in to work, but waiting for availability of funds.

The President then conferred with Rep. Carlos Hilado, Gov. Valeriano Gatuslao, City Mayor Manuel M. Villanueva, City Treasurer Sixto Castillo, Economic Coordination Administrator Alfredo Montelibano, RFC Chairman Eduardo Romualdez, Bacolod RFC Branch Manager Emilio Salvatierra, AFP Chief of Staff Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Constabulary Chief Brig. Florencio Selga, 3rd MA Commander Col. Cornelio Bondad, and PC Provincial Commander Lt. Col. Abenir Bornaes. The impromptu conference was held at the house of Dr. and Mrs. Eduardo Garcia, near the site of the conflagration. During the conference, the following matters were taken up:

- (1) Immediate employment of all available laborers for the cleaning up of the debris so that reconstruction work can begin as early as possible;
- (2) Immediate reconstruction of the burned down market which was valued at P335,000;
- (3) Aid in the reconstruction of houses and buildings by the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation; and
- (4) Rehabilitation of the about 500 families whose houses had been burned down.

The President first asked City Mayor Villanueva about the problems of his city. The mayor said that the pressing and immediate need of the city was emergency employment for some 2,000 persons who had been affected by the fire and who had been laid off from work in the sugar centrals.

The President told the mayor that he was releasing immediately P100, 000 from his contingent funds in order to give immediate employment to the jobless. They will be hired to clean the entire burned area of debris and rubble.

The President said that inasmuch as Bacolod City had just received the sum of P179 741.43 which was released from its pre-war deposits, P100.000 out of this amount can be used immediately for the payment of laborers. This will be reimbursed later by the P100,000 which would be sent from Manila coming from the contingent funds. He said that Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez would issue the authority for the advance of this money immediately.

The President told Mayor Villanueva to have the city council file immediately with the RFC the necessary loan for the reconstruction of the market. This reconstruction work was given priority in the overall reconstruction and rehabilitation work. The President told the mayor to instruct the city engineer to work immediately on the plans for the market and to present it in three days.

RFC Chairman Romualdez said during the meeting that the RFC was ready to help finance reconstruction work in Bacolod City. He gave out the following order of priorities: (1) the public market, (2) residential buildings, (3) residential-commercial buildings, and (4) commercial buildings.

OEC Administrator Montelibano, who participated in the discussions, informed the President that he had allowed some 500 families whose houses have been burned to construct temporary homes in the Capitol Subdivision (Montelibano-owned) rent-free for one year. He insisted that in the reconstruction of the city, the reconstruction code of the City of Manila be adopted in order that the reconstructed city will be raised along modern lines. He informed the President that the presidents of the Rotary Club, the Jaycees, and the two factions of the Lions have formed a citizens committee to help in the reconstruction work.

The President told the officials to start the reconstruction as soon as possible and said that he would follow through the progress of the work.

During the conference, it was brought out that there were suspicions that the fire had been intentionally caused, as empty cans of gasoline had been found near a burned building. It was also revealed that three weeks before the fire the CAFA had made a raid on suspicious characters in the city. This aspect of the fire was still being investigated by the PC.

Col. Bondad said that at present there are 96 PC men who have taken over police duties. Under the Constabulary there are 205 members of the police force who are cooperating in the preservation of peace and order. Bondad said that the peace-and-order situation in Bacolod City is normal.

At the airport Dr. Joaquin Canuto of the Philippine National Red Cross said that all the relief organizations in Bacolod City; namely, the Social Welfare Administration, the Philippine National Red Cross, and even the Salvation Army have coordinated their efforts. As a result he said relief was being administered very smoothly.

The President took off from the Bacolod airport at 2:45 p.m. and arrived at the Manila International Airport at 4:35 p.m. With him in the plane were RFC Chairman Romualdez, General Vargas, and Assistant Press Secretary Guillermo V. Sison.

April 19.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning followed a heavy schedule of callers composed mainly of provincial delegations localities which sought financial assistance for pressing projects in their respective localities.

The President started by the day 7:30 a.m. with a breakfast conference with Gen. William L. Lee, U. S. 13th Air Force commanding general in Clark Field, Pampanga. Also present at the breakfast table were Miss Dorothy Brandon of the *New York Herald-Tribune* and Press Secretary J. V. Cruz.

After breakfast, the President repaired to his private study, where he held a series of conferences with some members of his Cabinet and Malacañang assistants who consulted him on various pending matters.

Economic Coordination Administrator Alfredo Montelibano called to report the purchase by the NARIC of 20,000 tons of rice from Thailand to avert local rice shortage. Montelibano informed the President that the first shipment of 5,000 tons is expected to arrive in Manila by the end of this month.

Agriculture Undersecretary Jaime Ferrer called to propose the increase of appropriations for cadastral survey to facilitate the issuance of titles and to enable small farmers to obtain credit for the improvement of their farms as soon as possible. Ferrer said that the present rate of distribution of titles which is 50,000 a year should be accelerated to dispose of a large bulk of applications pending in the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The President began receiving scheduled callers at his executive office about 9 a.m.

W. Douglas, president of the People's Bank and Trust Company, called to present five checks totalling P3,000 for the earthquake fund drive. One check was for P2,000 contributed by the estate of William J. Shaw, and the rest were for P250 each contributed by Charlotte E. Heilborhn and H. J. Belden, who are now in the U. S., by the People's Bank and Trust Company and by Douglas himself.

Another check for P134 was contributed by the FGU Insurance Employees and Workers Association for the earthquake fund. The check was presented by Florencio Ibarra, president of the association.

A delegation from the Lions Club of San Pablo City sought the President's assistance in their campaign to raise funds for the development and beautification of Sampaloc Lake, one of the scenic spots in Laguna. Headed by Zosimo Tanalaga, local Lions president, members of the delegation expressed their determination to transform the lake site into one of the country's main tourist attractions.

A large delegation of municipal officials from Leyte requested funds for the construction of irrigation systems, roads, and other projects for their municipalities. The group was accompanied by Gov. Bernardo Torres and Reps. Alberto Aguja, Carlos Tan, Daniel Romualdez, and Francisco Pajao.

Another large delegation was from Sta. Rita, Pampanga, which requested the construction of several artesian wells in their barrios. The delegation was accompanied by Rep. Diosdado Macapagal.

Other delegations were those headed by Reps. Wenceslao Lagumbay of Laguna, Manuel Enverga of Quezon, Ismael Veloso of Davao, Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur, Enrique Corpus of Zambales, Emilio Cortez of Pampanga, Roseller T. Lim of Zamboanga del Sur, Alberto Ubay of Zamboanga del Norte, Guillermo Sanchez of Agusan, and Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz; Govs. Rafael Lazatin of Pampanga, Guideon Quijano of Misamis Occidental, Eliseo Quirino of Ilocos Sur, Manuel Escudero of Sorsogon, and Adelmo Camacho of Bataan.

The President received callers until 12:30 p.m. Then he had lunch with Mons. Egidio Vagnozzi who called to say goodbye. The papal nuncio is returning to Rome on an extended leave of absence.

President Magsaysay conferred today with the Philippine panel to the forthcoming SEATO military planners meeting in Baguio City and they crystalized the Philippine position on various matters to be taken up at the conference. The conference was held behind closed doors at the Camp Murphy conference room from 1:30 to 3:25 p.m.

Brig. Gen. Pelagio A. Cruz, Philippine Air Force commanding general and chairman of the panel, briefed the conference on tentative attitudes framed by the group on matters likely to be brought up at the SEATO meet. Because of their classified nature, no details were released.

The President expressed his gratification over the thorough preparatory work done by the Philippine group and congratulated Gen. Cruz and the members of the panel.

President at the conference were Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug, Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Brig. Gen. Eulogio Balao, Brig. Gen. Alfonso Arellano, and Press Secretary J. V. Cruz.

Panel members present, besides Gen. Cruz, were Captain Rafael Pargas, PN, vice-chairman; Col. Roman T. Gavino, secretary, and Col. Marcos Soliman, Col. Nicanor Jimenez, Col. Oscar Rialp, Col. Dionisio Ojeda, Col. Ismael Lapus, Col. Manuel Salientes, Col. Juan Arroyo, Col. Jose B. Ramos, PAF, Lt. Col. Felix Maniego, Lt. Col. Tomas C. Tirona, PAF, Lt. Col. Fidel Llamas, Cdr. Felix Apolinario, PN, Maj. Ernesto del Castillo, and Maj. Renato de la Fuente, members.

The President today signed Administrative Order No. 113, withdrawing the penalty of reprimand and warning previously imposed on Eduardo Taylor, former general manager of the Cebu Portland Cement Company, who was "exonerated of the charges against him."

In Administrative Order No. 93, Taylor had been reprimanded and warned for carrying his political conviction "beyond proper bounds and for being remiss in the discharge of his duties."

The new administrative order said that "it would seem that the purpose of the disciplinary action imposed in Administrative Order No. 93 became academic and would accomplish no useful purpose."

Administrative Order No. 113 also took cognizance of the 30 years of service that Taylor had rendered in the government corporation as "highly satisfactory" and that the acts for which he had been punished did not adversely reflect on his honesty and integrity.

The President's modification of the previous administrative order was made upon recommendation of Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason. The secretary of justice had ruled that the recommendation for the reprimand and warning had been made on the assumption that Taylor would continue in the service. However, Taylor applied for retirement which was subsequently approved by the board of directors of the CEPOC, effective at the close of business hours of January 31, 1955.

April 20.—YIELDING to the request of Liberal Party leaders, the President woke up early and met the LPs in his ante-room at 7:15 this morning.

The Liberals, headed by Rep. Eugenio Perez of Pangasinan, LP president, told the President that they were not sitting with the other parties at the scheduled breakfast conference this morning. They announced that they were formally severing bi-partisan cooperation with the Nacionalistas on domestic and foreign policy issues.

The LPs honored the President's invitation to discuss an agenda of pending legislative measures, but they steadfastly refused to sit down with leaders of the majority in talks with the President.

The opposition men conferred with the President for 40 minutes and approved in principle to support administration bills that will "benefit the people as a whole." They left five minutes before 8 a.m., when the majority leaders arrived to confer with the President on the same bills.

House Minority Floor Leader Perez said their stand to boycott bipartisan issues does not imply the minority will ignore congressional measures that would redound to the public welfare. He said the Liberal Party will cooperate

with the President in the prosecution of all executive and legislative policies intended to benefit the country as a whole.

With Perez were Sen. Quintin Paredes and Reps. Cornelio T Villareal of Capiz, Diosdado Macapagal of Pampanga, and Ferdinand Marcos of Ilocos Norte.

The Nacionalista Party leaders in the breakfast conference with the President which followed also gave their approval of the administration-sponsored bills.

In separate meetings with Coalition and Liberal Party leaders this morning, the President was assured they will support:

- (1) The land tenure bill;
- (2) The agrarian courts bill;
- (3) Legislation to expedite disposition of cadastral cases; and
- (4) Release from the bond issue of P10 million to expedite the survey and distribution of public lands and titles.

The Liberals also pledged support of the home-financing bill provided it was revised to provide more opportunities for people in the rural areas to acquire homes. The Coalition leaders, while agreeing with the intentions and spirit of the legislation, urged that it be studied further with a view to clarifying "doubtful" parts.

For this purpose, the Coalition conference named Sen. Gil Puyat and Rep. Jose Roy, representing their respective chambers, to constitute a committee of three with Commodore Jose V. Andrada, PN, Malacañang technical adviser, to study the proposed legislation. Andrada has been studying the measure for Malacañang.

The support extended to the other measures was likewise conditional on some amendments adopted by the Coalition conference.

The Liberals expressed support of the land tenure bill pending in the House of Representatives provided stress was laid on negotiated purchase rather than expropriation in the purchase of landed estates for subsequent distribution to tenants.

On the other hand, some Coalition leaders, like Sen. Lorenzo M. Tañada and Rep. Arturo M. Tolentino expressed doubts over the constitutionality of the provision requiring landowners to accept "land certificates" as payment for expropriated holdings. They said the provision might violate the just compensation clause in the Constitution.

President Magsaysay suggested that, if this were so, the bill be amended to provide for cash payment for expropriated properties.

The Coalition conference agreed that in any event, the land tenure bill, which has been frozen in the House committee on agrarian and social welfare, should be reported out immediately. Changes in the law could then be worked in during its consideration on the floor. The President emphasized the urgency of selling up a workable and effective machinery for the breakup and distribution of private estates to tenants.

Both conferences also agreed to support the agrarian court's bill, with the amendment that they will be placed under the Department of Justice instead of under the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources as proposed by the Government Survey and Reorganization Commission.

On the need for legislation to help expedite disposition of cadastral cases, the Coalition meet agreed to ask the Department of Justice to study a bill aimed at expanding the jurisdiction of justices of the peace to include cadastral cases. This will expedite their disposition. The Liberals also favored any move towards speeding up adjudication of cadastral cases.

Both groups agreed to support the release of P10 million from the bond issue to expedite the survey and distribution of public lands and titles.

The President suggested that controversial provisions of the bill be studied by the committee and submitted anew for consideration.

Those who attended the Coalition conference were Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez and Sens. Lorenzo M. Tañada, Claro M. Recto, Jose P. Laurel, Cipriano Primicias, Tomas Cabili, and Fernando Lopez; Speaker Jose Laurel, Jr.; Speaker Protempore Daniel Z. Romualdez; and Reps. Arturo M. Tolentino of Manila, Tobias Former of Antique, Ismael Veloso of Davao, Constancio Castañeda of Tarlac, Lamberto Macias of Negros Oriental, and Jose J. Roy of Tarlac.

After his conference with the majority solons, the President received Reps. Roy and Castañeda to thresh out their dispute over the distribution of political patronage in their province, Tarlac.

President Magsaysay also received Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevosos who accompanied officials of the Philippine Trade Union Confederation.

After receiving a few callers, the President presided over the Cabinet meeting which lasted until 12:30 p.m.

The start of atomic research in the Philippines and its participation in the atoms-for-peace program was seen with the acceptance by President Magsaysay and the Cabinet today of the requirements behind an offer by the United States to send a complete atomic research reactor to the Philippines.

Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia informed the Cabinet that the United States had offered to send to Manila a complete atomic research reactor with the necessary uranium without cost to the government. He said, however, that before this reactor could be sent the Philippine Government should first agree to the following terms:

- (1) That the Philippine Government should initiate the request for the sending of the atomic research reactor;
- (2) That the Philippine Government should pay for its operation and maintenance; and
- (3) That the Philippine Government should guarantee the conservation of its uranium resources.

The President and the Cabinet members agreed to these requirements and consequently directed Vice-President Garcia to take the necessary steps towards the acquisition of the atomic reactor. It was believed that the acquisition of such an apparatus would be an incentive to local scientists to engage in atomic research work as is being conducted in other countries to further the growth of atomic knowledge and apply its peaceful uses for the benefit of mankind.

The Vice-President informed the Cabinet that according to information received by him, the maintenance and operation of the apparatus would not be very costly. He also said that he had consulted with Dr. Amando Clemente of the University of the Philippines, who is the chairman of the atomic research committee of the Philippines, and that the Filipino scientist endorsed the proposal. Garcia further said that Filemon C. Rodriguez, coordinator of U. S. aid, had also favorably endorsed the matter.

In the afternoon, the President signed five bills into law and vetoed one. The bills signed were:

- (1) House Bill No. 684, seeking to convert all specially organized provinces into regularly organized provinces. The bill provides that officers in any of the specially organized provinces appointed to, or occupying elective positions shall continue to hold office until their successors shall have been elected and qualified in the next regular elections for provincial and municipal officials;

(2) House Bill No. 145, amending the first paragraph of section 24 of Act No. 3992 as amended, by requiring any person desiring to secure a professional drivers license to obtain first a police clearance, free of charge, from the police department of the city or municipality where he resides;

(3) House Bill No. 885, amending Item 21 of the Public Works project for Quezon Province, making the amount of P5,000 appropriated under Republic Act No. 670 for construction of the Hanagdon-Antipolo school building available for the construction of the Sto. Cristo building in Sariaya, Quezon.

(4) House Bill No. 688, changing the name of Trinidad town in Davao to Jose Abad Santos; and

(5) House Bill No. 132, changing the name of barrio Pajarito in Sibalom, Antique, to Catmon.

The President vetoed House Bill No. 2221, making the amount of P25,000 appropriated under Republic Act No. 670 available for the construction of the Agoncillo-San Nicolas road in Taal. The President vetoed the measure upon recommendation of Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa, who said that the said amount of P25,000 appropriated for the Lemery-Agoncillo road had already been expended.

The President acted on these six legislative measures in his anteroom in the presence of Legislative Secretary Jose C. Nable.

The President also conferred with Assistant Executive Secretary Mariano A. Yenke, Jr., who consulted him on routine matters.

The President today ordered the suspension of Mayor Lorenzo Formoso of Vigan, Ilocos Sur, following serious administrative charges filed against the mayor by Rep. Floro S. Crisologo.

The President, at the same time, assigned a special investigator, Mariano Almeda, assistant to the NBI director, to conduct the investigation of the charges which included murder, bribery, immorality, terrorism, extortion, malversation of public property, maintenance of gambling and other forms of vices, corruption in office, dishonesty, and maladministration.

The Chief Executive decided to take a direct hand in the case in view of the serious nature of the charges against the Vigan mayor and in order to insure a fair and impartial investigation. He directed Almeda to see to it that the respondent "mayor be afforded "full opportunity to defend himself personally or by counsel."

Copy of the order of suspension was sent to Vigan Vice-Mayor Benito Fama, who was directed to assume the office of acting mayor pending final determination of the administrative proceedings against Formoso.

In his complaint formally filed with Malacañang, Crisologo specified a total of 19 charges duly supported with affidavits. He asked for the immediate suspension and eventual dismissal of the Vigan mayor.

Formoso, among other things, was charged with:

(1) Having sold a fire engine belonging to the municipality worth P20, 000 for only P600 on December 22, 1954:

(2) Demanding and receiving bribe and protection money from gambling establishments, from persons who may have cases in court, and from Chinese residents in the town;

(3) Having "masterminded" the killing of one Domingo Ramos, a resident of another town;

(4) Demanding and receiving a share in the insurance money of destroyed buildings and goods following a fire which gutted the commercial section of Vigan;

- (5) Maintaining gambling in his own house and allocating the income from such gambling to the repair and rehabilitation of his home;
- (6) Maintaining *queridas* “under scandalous circumstances” in Vigan and other towns and holding illicit relations with other women, married and unmarried, including women employees in his office;
- (7) Initiating police fund campaigns and pocketing all the proceeds which were never accounted for; and
- (8) Getting a “cut” of the salaries of many of his employees.

April 21.—FOR a change, the President switched this morning from the usual political breakfast with senators and representatives to a spiritual breakfast conference with members of the Knights of Columbus who are now in Manila to celebrate their Golden Jubilee.

Among those present in the breakfast were Agriculture Secretary and Mrs. Salvador Araneta. Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Reyes. Mrs. Maire Wesseling, Mrs. Catherine Switzer, ex-Justice Manuel Lim, Fr. George Wilmann, and Mr. and Mrs. Ernesto Lagdameo.

After his breakfast with the knights, the President received former President and Mrs. Sergio Osmeña, who called prior to their return to Cebu Health Secretary Paulino Garcia accompanied the Osmeñas to the Palace. The former president came to Manila for a minor operation.

Then the President proceeded to his executive office, where he received Chou Shu-kai, minister plenipotentiary of China, who accompanied seven newspapermen from Taipeh, Formosa.

A short interview with the President was recorded on tape by Pan Chi Yuan of the China Broadcasting Corporation. President Magsaysay was interrogated in Chinese with Minister Chou acting as interpreter.

The President extended his best wishes and regards to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, who had expressed the same sentiments to the President through Minister Chou.

Mrs. Linda Barcenas, president of the Philippine Federation of Business and Professional Women’s Club, accompanied by the nine members of the club also called to pay their respects. A resolution of the club affirming their support to the Administration was read. Another resolution was read asking the President to give more opportunities to women to participate in the government service.

Rep. Ricardo Ladrado of Iloilo also came to see the President and reported on the over-all situation in his district. He also reported on the progress of the P75 million irrigation project in Iloilo, which he said may be inaugurated by May of this year.

The President this morning received officers of the United Harbor Pilot Association of the Philippines who presented him with a check for P1,000 for the Liberty Wells fund and another check for P1,000 for the earthquake fund. The association’s contributions were handed by Marcelo Ayesa, president of the organization.

Officers of the Philippine Association of University Women also called to present a P500-check for the earthquake fund drive. The check was handed by Mrs. Concepcion Aguila, association president.

Paul Wood, president of the International Harvester Company of the Philippines, bade the Chief Executive goodbye prior to his return to the U. S. on a three-month business trip. During the call, President Magsaysay expressed his desire to see more American business in this company like the International Harvester whose multi-million-peso investments had helped considerably in the rehabilitation of Philippine industries. He also expressed hope that American capital share Harvester’s faith and confidence in the Philippines and come to this country in that same spirit of service which animated this company 50 years ago.

Ralph Bradford, visiting international vice-president of the American Chamber of Commerce, called to pay his respects following his recent arrival here. He was accompanied by Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma.

Roy Holt, visiting manager of the California Pacific Corporation, also called to pay his respects. He was accompanied by executives of the Henares and Sons Co. headed by Larry Henares.

A delegation from the Philippine Association of Agriculturists requested the President to proclaim May 5 as Agricultural Science Day. Headed by Demetrio Santos, association president, the delegation also invited the President to be guest at their agricultural convention to be held in Manila early next month.

Another delegation composed of paint importers protested against the total banning of the importation of paints. With Hugh Rincon of General Paints Corporation as their spokesman, the group explained that local manufacturers were as yet unable to produce sufficient quantities to fill the country's requirements.

The President received callers until 12:30 p.m. Other visitors included delegations headed by Gov. Vicente Constantino and Rep. Leon Guinto, Jr., of Quezon; Reps. Rodolfo Ganzon of Iloilo, Vicente L. Peralta of Sorsogon, Francisco Ortega of La Union; and Govs. Francisco Infantado of Mindoro Oriental and Felix Caro of Isabela.

Trade relations between the Philippines on one hand and Laos and Cambodia on the other have been reestablished since the Philippines formally recognized these two countries, Malacañang announced today. Since the act of recognition, Malacañang said, Laos and Cambodia were stricken off the list of countries with which Filipinos may not trade.

The Malacañang announcement was made in view of inquiries received as to the legality and practicability of conducting trade with those two countries. Every government agency concerned, Malacañang said, has been instructed to give every facility to Filipinos desiring to transact business with Laos and Cambodia.

Without previous notice and schedule, the President slipped out of Manila in the afternoon and took off in his new Cessna plane for Baguio City to visit his family in the Mansion House. He was accompanied by Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo and Maj. Pat Garcia, his aides.

April 22.—BAGUIO City officialdom must have been unaware of the arrival of the President in the summer capital the previous day as City Mayor Alfonso Tabora came to Manila this morning to see the President.

At 2:45 o'clock in the afternoon, the President again took off in his new Cessna plane and flew to Poro Point. He arrived at the La Union beach resort 20 minutes later.

According to reports received at Malacañang in the evening, the President was motoring toward Manila and was to be expected at the Palace before midnight. The President arrived in Malacañang about 10 p.m.

The President was reported to have given today Secretary Carlos P. Romulo, chief Philippine delegate to the current Asian-African conference in Bandung, Indonesia, the go-signal to meet with Red China Premier Chou En-lai on the Formosa issue. Romulo was instructed merely to "listen" to what Prime Minister Chou had to say on the matter.

April 23.—FOR the third time in a week the President flew to Baguio City to check preparations for the coming military planners conference of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO). He left so early this morning that nobody seemed to have noticed him leave the Palace.

The President took off in his new Cessna plane at Nichols Air Base about 9:15 a.m., arriving in the summer capital about 10 a.m.

From the Loakan airport, the President motored to the Mansion House to visit his family.

After conferring with Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff, in connection with the participation of the Philippine delegation at the SEATO military planners conference, the President returned to Manila, arriving here at 5: 30 p.m. He was accompanied by Lt. Col. Jonas Victoria, PAF. Nichols Air Base commander, Maj. Pat. Garcia, and his personal valet.

The President this day named Dr. Jesus C. Azurin as director of the Bureau of Quarantine and Jose Villa Panganiban as director of the Institute of National Language.

Azurin replaces Dr. Rufino Abriol, retired, while Panganiban takes the place of Cecilio Lopez, who had been acting director of the Institute of National Language.

The President also named the members of the newly created Board of National Education. Appointed to the board were Teodoro Evangelista, Jesus Paredes, Jr., Marcelo Acayan, V. Catapusan, Salih Uttutalum, Felicidad Silva, and Toribio Teodoro. All these appointments were forwarded this day to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation.

Malacañang also announced the designation of Joaquin Chipeco and Eduardo Ortigas as members of the Home Financing Commission, vice Ramon V. del Rosario and Angel Padilla, resigned.

Malacañang today recommended a more severe penalty for the erring officials of the National Mental Hospital in connection with the death of Lope K. Chamcoco, a patient.

President Magsaysay upon receiving the report of Health Secretary Paulino Garcia, recommending only three months suspension for the erring officials and transferring them to other hospitals, directed Assistant, Executive Secretary Mariano A. Yenke, Jr., to refer the papers of the case to the Bureau of Civil Service with a recommendation for a one-year suspension of the hospital officials. The Bureau of Civil Service is empowered by law to administer the punishment to erring employees.

The President also directed that Health Secretary Garcia make a thorough study and investigation of the rules and regulations of the National Mental Hospital with the end in view of avoiding the repetition of the unfortunate incidents surrounding the death of Chamcoco. He further directed that Garcia look into the status of previous legislation seeking the construction of regional mental hospitals to avoid congestion of mental patients in the national hospital and give them more facilities. He ordered that ways and means be sought to provide all possible conveniences and treatment facilities for mental patients.

The officers involved in the case were Emiliano de Guzman, acting superintendent of the National Mental Hospital, and Anatalio Montesines and Teodoro Robel, administrative clerks. It was charged that the late Chamcoco had died unattended in a toilet bathroom adjoining the hospital ward and that his body had been discovered by his wife in the bathroom with mutilations in the face, neck, and other parts of his body due to rat bites allegedly inflicted while the deceased had been in the bathroom. It was further charged that the family had not been notified of the serious illness and death of Chamcoco until his wife came to visit him.

An investigation committee composed of Drs. Ricardo L. Alfonso and Clemente Gatmaitan reported that the deceased had been attended to by a physician and a nurse up to the last moments of his life in his sick bed, and that it had not been definitely determined that the mutilations had occurred in the hospital morgue.

The committee found out that acting Superintendent Guzman had been lax in the supervision of his subordinate personnel, that Montesines had failed to take the necessary steps beyond routine procedures in contacting the family of the deceased and in properly disposing of the body within the specified period, and that Robel had failed to carry out the instructions of the acting superintendent.

In his report to the President, Health Secretary Garcia said that the failure of the involved employees to use the right judgment or exercise plain common sense, in not having notified the relatives of the deceased within a reasonable

time, thus allowing the cadaver to stay in the morgue for approximately 30 hours, was a “clear-cut evidence that they have been recreant to their duties as public employees.”

April 24.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay left Malacañang at 6:30 this morning for the Manila International Airport, where he saw Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro off. Castro boarded a NWA plane bound for the United States where he would enter the Walter Reed Hospital for medical treatment.

A big crowd was at the airport to see Secretary Castro off. Among the officials present were Health Secretary Paulino Garcia, Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug, Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevos, Press Secretary J. V. Cruz, and Assistant Executive Secretaries Mariano A. Yenko Jr., and Enrique C. Quema. Also present was Mrs. Castro.

While at the airport, the President talked with several department secretaries. He wished his executive secretary Godspeed and good health and cheered him up with: “Don’t worry I will take care of you.”

Castro was accompanied by Dr. Wigberto Clavecilla, Malacañang physician. Both are traveling on private funds.

Yenko will be acting executive secretary during Castro’s absence. He has been filling that position since Castro went on leave about a month ago on orders of his physician.

From the airport the President and Ms aide, Maj. Pat Garcia, motored to the house of Dr. and Mrs. Jose Corpus in the Malacañang compound, where he ate his breakfast with his parents. Mrs. Magsaysay and her children were still in Baguio City.

After breakfast, the President worked continuously from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on pending state papers.

At about 3 p.m., the President flew to his hometown, Castillejos, Zambales, where he continued working on state papers. He flew back to Manila and arrived at Malacañang about 5 p.m., in time for his scheduled conferences with RRA officials and Col. Harry A. Brenn, local FOA chief.

In the afternoon, the President received the final report of the Relief and Reconstruction Authority on its work in the earthquake devastated areas in Mindanao. RRA Chairman Manuel P. Manahan, together with Col. Antonio Chanco, chief of the AFP corps of engineers, Division Engineer Rafael Contreras, and Accounting Officer Sotero H. Bay, all RRA members, called on the President to submit their final report.

RRA Chairman Manuel P. Manahan informed the President that the sum of P836,627.71 has been expended as follows: P639,750 for public works and P142,877.71 for relief goods, including transportation and overhead expenses. He reported that out of P836,627.71 expended, only P561,627.71 had been taken from the President’s contingent funds, as P275,000 has been charged against Republic Act No. 917.

Manahan told the Chief Executive that reconstruction work in the affected areas was continuing smoothly under local officials, requiring only a regular follow-up by RRA officials. He said that conditions in the area are now normal. Col. Chanco said that all the damaged roads had been reconstructed and that there are better roads now than those existing before the quake.

The President was pleased with the report and congratulated all the RRA officials and their personnel and all other entities for the efficiency with which they had tackled the relief and reconstruction work.

The President this afternoon also conferred with Col. Harry A. Brenn, local FOA chief, and discussed with him in a general way the FOA program in the Philippines, including the \$9.5 million United States aid.

Among the matters taken up by the President with Brenn were the establishment of the division cantonments, the construction program for the jet aircraft facilities in the Basa Air Base, and the granting of FOA industrial loans. No details were given about the discussions.

After the conference with Col. Brenn, the President took up with Col. Antonio P. Chanco, chief of the AFP corps of engineers, the needs for cantonment training.

Malacañang announced today that President Magsaysay had received the report of Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., on the investigation of Private Schools Director Daniel Salcedo. It was revealed that the President had found the education secretary's recommendation to be lenient and that the President was not satisfied. The President is still studying the matter carefully.

April 25.—SHAKING off at the Nichols Air Base at 8:45 this morning on board the plane *Laong-Laan* the President arrived at Loakan airport at 9:30 a.m., accompanied by Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo, his aide; Manuel Zamora, Malacañang protocol officer; and Milagros, the President's younger daughter. The President went to Baguio City to be present at the opening of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) conference of military planners.

The Chief Executive used the *Laong-Laan*, as he had loaned his presidential plane *Pagasa* to former President and Mrs. Sergio Osmeña, who returned to Cebu this morning.

After going over some pending state papers he took along in the Guest House, the President directed Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez Jr., to forward to him the papers on the administrative case of Darnel Salcedo director of the Bureau of Private Schools.

The President had a late lunch with Mrs. Magsaysay, Press Secretary J V Cruz, and newsmen at the Guest House. The newsmen sounded the President out on his reelection plans, but the President gave no indication of his plans.

The President today sent the following cable to Secretary Carlos P. Romulo:

“HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU AND MEMBERS PHILIPPINE DELEGATION FOR BRILLIANT PERFORMANCE AT BANDUNG STOP YOU HAVE UPHELD HIGHEST INTEREST OF THE PHILIPPINES AS WELL AS THE FREE WORLDS OF WHICH WE ARE PROUDLY A PART STOP THE ENTIRE COUNTRY JOINS ME IN GREETING YOU FOR JOB WELL DONE STOP”

Malacañang this day officially informed Health Secretary Paulino Garcia that hospitals and health services had been given priority in the allocation of funds from the bond issue under Republic Act No. 1000. Included in the priority list were the National Mental Hospital, the National Orthopedic Hospital, the Maternity and Children's Hospital, the branches of the North General Hospital, and the Lipa City General Hospital. The total amount needed for these projects is around P10 million.

Assistant Executive Secretary Mariano A. Yenke, Jr., wrote Secretary Garcia requesting him to confer with Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez and give the necessary details and information regarding the construction of the hospitals so that the proper funds could be allotted.

Previously, hospitals and health services were not given priority in the allocation of funds because they were not self-liquidating public works projects. Consequently, Secretary Garcia requested Malacañang to include hospitals and health services in the priority list to accelerate the Administration's health program. The President and the Cabinet approved Garcia's request in the last Cabinet meeting.

In the evening, the President reiterated his administration's policy of giving the widest autonomy to the boards of directors of government-owned or controlled corporations.

The President's directive to managers and members of such boards deplored that oftentimes matters were taken up with the President which “could be properly taken cognizance of, and resolved by, the boards of directors of the government corporations concerned.”

The President said this was contrary to the “declared policy” of his administration. This policy, he said, is “to give the governing bodies of government-owned or controlled corporations as much autonomy as possible and as wide a latitude of action and freedom in the exercise of judgment as are consistent with their prerogatives and responsibilities.” He said this is both sound administrative and business practice.”

The President directed the boards of directors of state corporations to resolve directly all matters which properly belonged to their respective jurisdictions. He discouraged the directors’ appeals to the President except where there arises possible conflict between a projected course of action and existing national policy.” In this event, the directive said, the President should be consulted.

The President’s directive squarely placed on the boards of state corporations full responsibility for their corporate act or decision.

April 26—IN order to be available for consultations with the Philippine delegation to the Manila Treaty (SEATO) military planners conference being held in Baguio City, the President spent most of his time this day in the Guest House.

Justices of the Supreme Court, headed by acting Chief Justice Guillermo Pablo, called on the Chief Executive early this morning. Chief Justice Ricardo Paras, who is on leave, was the only member of the high tribunal not present during the call.

The President also received this morning Rep. Jacobo Gonzales of Laguna and Baguio City Mayor Alfonso Tabora, who reported on local matters.

After receiving his callers, the President had a late breakfast with Mrs. Magsaysay. After breakfast, he met Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta.

Later, the President conferred with Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona; Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Pelagio A. Cruz, commanding general of the Philippine Air Force; and Col. Antonio P. Chanco, chief of the AFP corps of engineers.

They discussed the agreement providing for \$9.5 million United States aid in military equipment. The agreement was to have been signed at 4 p.m. this day but for some “rough edges” which were brought out in the conference between the President, Aytona, and military top brass.

Because of these discrepancies, the President decided to return to Manila at 4 this afternoon for a conference with U. S. Ambassador Homer Ferguson and Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia. He directed Vice-President Garcia in the meantime to hold in abeyance the signing of the PI-US agreement for the training of an Army division under the Mutual Defense Alliance Pact pending clarification of certain details in the agreement.

In the evening, the President presided over a conference between Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia and U. S. Ambassador Homer Ferguson during which “minor details” of the proposed agreement between the Philippines and the U. S. for the training of an Army division were taken up.

Present at the conference were Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, Col. Antonio P. Chanco, chief of the AFP corps of engineers, and Col. Harry A. Brenn, local FOA chief.

No details were given about the conference. It was revealed that “minor details” would have to be ironed out prior to the signing of the agreement.

President Magsaysay accompanied by his aide, Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo, flew down from Baguio City to preside over the conference. He arrived at Malacañang past 5 p.m. and immediately proceeded to his study room where the conference was held.

April 27.—AT a breakfast conference this morning with Secretary Carlos P. Romulo and other members of the Philippine delegation to the 29-nation Asian-African conference in Bandung, Indonesia, the President got a full report on the meet.

Secretary Romulo suggested to the President during the breakfast conference that the Chief Executive undertake a goodwill tour of neighboring friendly Asian countries instead of a trip to the United States, it was reliably learned.

Gen. Romulo, who headed the Philippine delegation, explained the net significance of decisions arrived at the recently concluded multi-nation conference at Bandung as they affected Philippine interests. He reported in detail on views expressed by the chief delegates in their discussions held behind closed doors. Such exchange of views showed the attitude of the participating countries on various matters taken up at the conference.

The President heard Gen. Romulo outline what the latter believed the Philippine Government should do to best implement the decisions expressed in the final communique released in Bandung. He also reported in detail on the individual and collective contributions given by members of his delegation to the success of the Philippine representation.

Toward the close of the meeting which lasted from 8 to 9:10 a.m., the President reiterated his congratulations to Romulo and the members of the delegation. "Our country is proud of you and the whole nation is indebted to you for your work in Bandung," the President told Romulo.

Present at the breakfast meeting aside from Romulo were other members of the delegation; namely, Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez, Rep. Domocao Alonto of Lanao and Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Raul Manglapus. Also present was Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently secretary of foreign affairs.

Right after the conference, President Magsaysay boarded his car for the airport, but was intercepted at the Malacañang grounds by Mayor Leopoldo Jalandoni of Midsayap, Cotabato. Jalandoni sought the release of P200 000 for the rat-extermination campaign in his province. Jose F. Manglimot, anti-rat campaign coordinator in Cotabato accompanied Jalandoni to Malacañang.

The President flew to the summer capital for the second time this week. He took off on the presidential plane *Pagasa* at Nichols Air Base at 9:50 a.m. and arrived at Loakan airport at 10:40 a.m. Accompanying him were Maj. Pat Garcia, his aide, Manuel "Dindo" Gonzalez, and GAB Commissioner Manuel Nieto.

The President then rested at the Guest House and had lunch with the First Lady.

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon, the President addressed the opening day session of the Philippine Medical Association's annual national convention and exhorted the conventionists to spread out to rural areas.

In Baguio City the President told newsmen that the Philippines successfully contributed to the universal campaign for peace and freedom in the Asian-African conference at Bandung. He said Secretary Romulo who led the Philippine delegation, and Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez, member of the delegation, gave a good impressive account of active Philippine participation in the historic parley.

Referring to the off-conference meetings between Romulo and Red China Premier Chou En-lai, the President said jokingly, "Romulo played well by ear." Secretary Romulo had said before the Bandung meet, that he would "play it by ear."

The President added he would soon formally offer Romulo the position of ambassador to the United States and chief Philippine delegate to the United Nations. Romulo formerly held both posts.

Early in the evening, the President honored delegates to the SEATO military conference at a cocktail party at the Guest House.

The President also received Rep. Jose R. Nuguid of Bataan and discussed with the solon the political situation in that province.

The President today ordered the sending of an NBI team to Malaybalay, Bukidnon, to investigate the reported suicide of Col. Mariano Griño, project supervisor of the NARRA settlement at Wao, Lanao.

Assistant Executive Secretary Mariano A. Yenke, Jr., received a note from Sen. Claro M. Recto asking the Chief Executive to lend a hand in ascertaining the cause of the colonel's death. The President approved the request.

Col. Griño was found dead in his office on the morning of Tuesday, April 25. He had been known to the President personally, having been a former chief coordinator of an MPM provincial chapter.

The Constabulary in Bukidnon was also notified to coordinate its efforts with the NBI team.

The Cabinet in its meeting today formed a committee to study ways and means of implementing the vocational education program of the Department of Education, which had been designed to bolster the economic development planning of the Administration.

Named to the committee were Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, and Economic Coordination Administrator Alfredo Montelibano. The committee was requested to make a study of the recommendations of the Department of Education and to submit its report as soon as possible to the President and the Cabinet.

In the absence of President Magsaysay, who had to fly to Baguio this morning to fulfill some engagements in that city, Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia presided over the meeting from 11 a.m. to past 12 noon.

April 28.—THE President woke up late in his official residence at the Guest House in Baguio City this morning.

He conferred with Reps. Erasmo Cruz and Rogaciano Mercado of Bulacan, who headed a group of Nacionalista mayors of the province. They urged the President to appoint Gov. Alejo Santos to the Cabinet.

At 11 a.m., the President, accompanied by Manuel Nieto, Games and Amusements Board commissioner; Dr. Jose Corpus, his physician; and Maj. Pat Garcia, his aide, flew back to Manila.

Upon his arrival from Baguio City, the President plunged to work with his advisers on the economic and political problems facing the Administration. Landing at the Nichols Air Force at 12:30 p. m., he immediately summoned his top economic advisers to draft a blue-print for the improvement of the national economy.

President Magsaysay and his economic advisers agreed to step up rice production and to increase the capitalization of two government corporations believed vital to economic development. They also took up problems involved in the reduction of the cost of cement, the production of lime and fertilizers, and the development of local coal resources.

Present at the conference were Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, RFC Chairman Eduardo Romualdez, Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, OEC Administrator Alfredo Montelibano, and Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona. Also present was Col. Harry A. Brenn, local FOA chief.

To increase local rice production, the President and his advisers agreed to construct more irrigation systems throughout the country.

The President during the conference called up Julian Buendia, supervising irrigation engineer and acting director of public works, and directed him over the telephone to work full blast on all irrigation projects now under construction

in various parts of the country. He told Buendia to employ all available men in these irrigation constructions on a three-shift basis. The President also approved the plan to capitalize the National Shipyards and Steel Corporation (NASSCO) for the construction of its plants. It was understood that the Government may float P23 million worth of bonds which will be pledged with the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation.

It was further agreed at the conference to establish factories to produce lime needed in neutralizing acidic soil and rendering it favorable for rich rice growth. The President told Montelibano to seek recapitalization of the Cebu Portland Cement Company and to construct a lime factory.

After meeting his economic advisers, the President conferred with Sen. Lorenzo M. Tañada, president of the Citizens Party, and some members of his party. With Tañada were Leon O. Ty, Carlos Nivera, Jose Ansaldo, Col. Frisco San Juan, Francisco “Soc” Rodrigo, and Juan Tan.

The group called on the President to notify him formally that they had broken their alliance with the Nacionalista Party. Tañada recounted to the President the circumstances which led to the break between the two parties. The group conferred with the Chief Executive for 45 minutes.

Although the Citizens Party had broken up with the majority party, Tañada’s political followers pledged continued support of the President’s

Later the President received members of the Union Zambaleno, an organization of all Zambales residents.

April 29.—AT a Malacañang breakfast conference between congressional leaders and members of a Cabinet committee headed by Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta, presided over by the President, it was agreed to submit immediately for congressional study and action the proper bills embodying the unemployment problem proposals.

Some major modifications, however, were suggested and accepted at the conference, chief among them being the rejection of the proposal to clothe President Magsaysay with emergency powers in order to enable him to impose by direct executive action such measures deemed necessary to the solution of the unemployment problem as import controls and

President Magsaysay himself declined the proposal, pointing out that he had absolutely no desire to assume emergency powers of any kind. He said Congress could very well enact the measures earmarked for executive action. The President’s stand was warmly received by the congressional leaders who in turn pledged to cooperate in the enactment of necessary measures.

The congressional leaders reacted favorably to proposals for solving the unemployment problem submitted by the Cabinet committee through its chairman, Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta.

While there was favorable reaction to the proposals advanced by Secretary Araneta towards solving the unemployment problem, the President and the congressional leaders were in agreement that, they will be subjected to closer scrutiny and study upon reaching Congress. They agreed that all interested parties will be given a chance to be heard on the program.

The congressional leaders, headed by Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., and Speaker Jose Laurel, Jr., also agreed to hold day and night sessions if necessary on the projected measures to complete action on them within the remaining days of the current regular session of Congress.

The breakfast-conference was featured by a long dissertation by Secretary Araneta on the report and recommendations of the Cabinet committee. Using charts and graphs as an aid to the discussions, Araneta held the floor for nearly two hours, explaining the program and answering questions propounded by the conferees. He was given a big hand at the close of the discussions.

Araneta told the gathering the Cabinet committee program envisaged short-term and long-range solutions to the unemployment problem. On short-term basis, it proposes direct employment by the government in the conversion, of idle natural resources into a national asset.

The program envisages expenditure of up to P2 billion over a period of five years for this purpose. It is estimated this amount will employ 400,000 laborers annually. They will be employed in the construction of rural roads and small bridges, community irrigation systems, land settlements, agricultural colonies, land reclamation, land surveys, forest protection, reforestation, permanent low-cost housing, water projects, and permanent schools and hospitals. In these projects, local available material will be used as much as possible.

Araneta said this program foresaw the necessity of temporarily relaxing the operation of the minimum wage law in the rural areas. Rep. Roseller T. Lim of Zamboanga del Sur, chairman of the House committee on labor, urged that this particular suggestion be held in abeyance until he has canvassed public opinion on the matter. Araneta said the best compromise may be to empower local governments to fix wage scales in their respective communities.

To raise the required P2 billion, Araneta proposed stepped-up sale of bonds with a lottery feature as an added inducement, compulsory savings, and borrowing from foreign and local banks.

On a long-range basis, Araneta suggested the formulation of such incentive to investment and production as import controls increased tariff protection, floor prices for non-perishable commodities a system of import certificates, and the relaxation of credit policies. The committee had recommended that these measures be imposed by executive action under a grant of emergency powers. However, in view of President Magsaysay's own stand against such a grant, it was agreed that separate bills embodying these proposals will instead be introduced for congressional enactment.

Present at the conference which lasted from 8 to 10 a.m. were Senate President Rodriguez, Senate Majority Floor Leader Cipriano Primicias, Sens. Justiniano S. Montano and Lorenzo M. Tañada of the labor committee, Sen. Jose C. Locsin of accounts, Sens. Alejo Mabanag and Edmundo B. Cea of public works, Sen. Fernando Lopez of agriculture, Speaker Laurel, Jr., Speaker Protempore Daniel Romualdez, House Majority Floor Leader Arturo M. Tolentino, Reps. Lim and Rodolfo Ganzon of labor, Reps. Tobias Fornier and Carlos Hilado of appropriations, Reps. Florencio Moreno and Felix Fuentebella of public works, Rep. Eulogio Rodriguez, Jr., of agriculture, and Rep. Pio Duran of banks.

After his breakfast-conference with congressional leaders, President Magsaysay received acting Secretary of State Momulo Dukuly of Liberia, who called to pay his respects to the President.

Dukuly, who was his country's delegate to the Bandung (Asian-African) conference, was accompanied by six other ranking officials from Liberia. He extended his felicitations and warm greetings to the President on behalf of the people of Liberia. He expressed his admiration for the President and his Administration, particularly for the President's achievement in breaking the Communist movement in the Philippines. President Magsaysay was also congratulated by the Liberian official on "the magnificent job that the Philippine delegation carried out at Bandung."

Officers of the Philippine Jute-Fiber Bag Manufacturing Association led by Gregorio Noriega of the Philippine Fiber Process Co., together with Hector Moreno and Raul Kahn, called on the President asking for some definite policy from the monetary board that may directly help them.

Gov. Federico Castillo accompanied a delegation of six mayors from Mindoro Occidental who reported to the President on the highly "deplorable" condition of the road leading from San Jose to the Philippine Milling Company.

Others callers were Mayor Ildefonso Cinco and Vice-Mayor Artemio Mate of Tacloban City, Rep. Luminog Mangelen of Cotabato and officials of the American President Lines composed of H. B. Luckett, F. H. Spongier, and L. M. Villanueva.

In the afternoon, the President signed House Bill No. 29-19, amending the charter of Zamboanga City and House Bill No. 2950, amending the charter of Basilan City. Earlier in the morning, the President signed House Bill No. 2639, amending the charter of Iloilo City.

These three bills, which have become laws, make the positions of mayor vice-mayor, and councilors in the three cities, elective.

President Magsaysay will forward tomorrow to the Commission on Appointments the nomination of Rep. Florencio Moreno of Romblon as secretary of public works and communications. Malacañang announced in the evening.

The President decided on the appointment of Moreno to replace Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa on the insistent request of the latter to allow him to dedicate all his time to his work as general manager and board chairman of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation.

The implementation of the highway and public works construction program of the administration is a man-sized job requiring the full time of the public works secretary. The work of the PHHC chairman and general manager is another big job in view of the expanding program of the corporation in constructing more low-rent houses for small employees and laborers. Since Secretary Orosa has been handling simultaneously these two important positions, he himself has requested the President that he be relieved from the public works portfolio so that he could dedicate all his time to the PHHC.

Rep. Moreno is conversant with all phases of public works, because aside from being an engineer, he is the chairman of the House committee on public works.

The President today contributed P1,000 to the National Press Club for the construction of its building. He handed a check for the amount to Teodoro F. Valencia, NPC president, at Malacañang. The donation was made in the presence of Press secretary J. V. Cruz and some newsmen on the Malacañang beat; namely, Luciano Millan of the *Manila Daily Bulletin*, Silvino Caparas of the *Daily Mirror*, and Mabini Centeno of the *Evening News*.

The President thus became the first donor to a special fund of private contributions established by the NPC to help defray expenses of constructing the NPC building.

April 30.—BRUSHING aside standing protocol of his high office, the President motored to the residence of his former Cabinet without portfolio, Gen. Carlos P. Romulo for a breakfast conference.

Romulo received final instructions from President Magsaysay preparatory to his departure for Washington in a three-hour breakfast conference at the envoy's residence in Forbes Park.

It was understood the two discussed in general the situation in Washington, especially those affecting Philippine-American relations. One of the matters thoroughly discussed by the two it was hinted, was the prospect of approval by U.S. Congress of the Laurel-Langley agreement.

Gen. Romulo would not say what subjects were taken up but it was believed the military assistance program here was also taken up. Asked about the reported offer to him to become Philippine ambassador to the United States, Romulo said that the subject was not taken up in his conversation with the President.

After his conference with Gen. Romulo the President returned to Malacañang and worked on state papers. He received the letter of resignation of Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Raul S. Manglapus but the President told his aides to write a letter rejecting the resignation.

Malacañang announced that Manglapus offered to resign his position believing his service in the government has become untenable with the dissolution of the alliance between the Citizens Party and the Nacionalista Party.

Manglapus belongs to the Citizens Party and was also one of the pillars of the Magsaysay-for-President-Movement which had contributed substantially to President Magsaysay's victory in the last elections.

The President did not receive any callers this day. In the afternoon he boarded his plane but did not indicate where he was going. It was presumed he went to his home town in Zambales, as landing in Baguio is impossible owing to the usual fog which envelops the airport there and surrounding areas in the afternoon.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Month in Review: May, 1955

Official Month in Review

May 1.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay was finally heard from this morning from Baguio City, where he arrived last evening. When the President boarded his plane yesterday afternoon, he did not indicate where he was going.

It was learned that the President decided to go to Baguio City for the week-end to visit his family at the Guest House.

The President woke up early in the morning and heard mass with his family at an improvised altar in the Guest House.

AFTER breakfast, he left for the Loakan airport with Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo, his Air Force aide, and boarded his new twin-engine *Cessna* plane for Manila to speak at the Labor Day ceremonies on the Luneta. He landed at the Nichols Air Base at 11:55 a.m.

AT 3:15 p.m., the President left for the Independence Memorial Grandstand, accompanied by Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevosos and Col. Napoleon D. Valeriano, his senior military aide. As the presidential car approached the Luneta, hundreds of laborers in parade formation along the streets cheered the Chief Executive. He got another ovation as he ascended the grandstand.

In his speech delivered before a huge crowd at 5:50 p.m., immediately after the parade, the President alerted Filipino workers against possible communist infiltration in their labor organizations which, he said, "are priority targets for communist seizure of control."

The President noted that in communist countries where labor is supposedly occupying a place of honor, "labor organizations have become little more than organized slavery." He said labor may achieve its greatest living standards only in a free democracy, because it is only here "that we find everything we need to achieve a better life."

President Magsaysay then pledged to maintain a free social and political climate in which labor can unite freely and learn to use effectively the democratic ways of protecting its rights and advancing its interests.

His administration is also pledged, the President declared, to increase national production by reducing the price of essential commodities and giving greater purchasing power to the workers. He added that he also plans to expand the national economy, bring about full employment, and put the law of supply and demand on the side of the workers. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 2350–2352, for the full text of the President's speech.)

Seated with the President were Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., Sen. Justiniano S. Montano, Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevosos, Labor Undersecretary Agapito Braganza, Paciano Villavieja of the Department of Labor, Pablo Manlapit of the PTUC Council, D. Stevenson of the U.S. Embassy, G. Mapara of the International Federation of Free Trade Unions, Bertram Gottlieb, adviser of the labor education center in the University of the Philippines, and Mrs. Pilar Balmori-Ramirez, president of the San Miguel Brewery Labor Federation. Later on during the parade, several labor leaders and officers of different unions went up the stage and greeted the President.

The parade was one of the longest ever held on Labor Day in Manila, lasting for two hours, from 3:20 to 5:20 p.m. The marching laborers carried placards, some of which bore the title, "Magsaysay is Labor's Guy." Other placards expressed the sentiment that labor was behind the Administration's policies on labor and at the same time expressed confidence in Labor Secretary Adevosos.

A program immediately followed the parade with Baltazar Villanueva acting as master of ceremonies. Jose Hernandez read a labor manifesto in which he enumerated some petitions of labor. The President's speech which

lasted about 15 minutes ended at 6:05 p.m. Immediately after, the President boarded his car and returned to Malacañang.

May 2.—THE President spent the whole morning in the Palace, going over state papers.

IN the Afternoon, the President received George U. Alba and Bienvenido C. Castillo, legal officer and secretary, respectively, of the National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration.

The President directed the management and board of directors of the National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration (NARRA) to step up its settlement projects. At the same time, he warned them against shipping out settlers to settlement areas without first assuring that they will have lands to occupy and that such areas had been subdivided.

The President said he observed during his recent trip to Panacan, Palawan, that several settlers who had been shipped there did not have any lands to settle on. The area had not been completely subdivided. The President said this practice discouraged the settlers and created confusion in settlement areas. He warned against its repetition.

The President issued these directives through NARRA Administrative and Legal Officer George U. Alba and NARRA Board Secretary Bienvenido C. Castillo, with whom he conferred at Malacañang. Other NARRA officials were out in the field.

The President also wants that one doctor and two nurses be assigned to every settlement. To bolster the NARRA staff, the President said he is detailing Col. Cesar Mirasol, AFP EDCOR chief, to the NARRA. He will serve as technical adviser to the board.

The President was advised that the NARRA to date had settled close to 8,000 families. He urged that the pace be stepped up, but he warned against lack of preparations in receiving settlers.

AFTER conferring with the NARRA officials, the President received Press Secretary J. V. Cruz to whom he announced his plan of meeting members of the Bicol Bloc in a breakfast conference tomorrow morning.

LATER in the afternoon, the President flew again to Baguio City on his *Cessna* plane. He was accompanied by his aide, Maj. Pat Garcia.

IN order to give impetus to agricultural science and help accelerate Philippine progress and prosperity, President Magsaysay today signed Proclamation No. 155, declaring Thursday, May 5, as "Agricultural Science Day".

A committee was created to take charge of its proper observance. The committee is composed of the secretary of agriculture and natural resources as the chairman, with the secretary of education, the dean of the College of Agriculture of the University of the Philippines, the president of Central Luzon Agricultural College, the dean of the Araneta Institute of Agriculture, and the president of the Philippine Association of Agriculturists as members.

The proclamation also states that the observance of the day will take place on the fifth of May every year hereafter.

THE President also signed Proclamation No. 154, prescribing qualifications in the selection of trainees to be called for military training, and Proclamation No. 156, designating the period from July 1 to August 14, 1955, as the period for the national fund campaign of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines in places outside of greater Manila.

May 3.—FLYING in from Baguio City about 7:30 this morning on his new *Cessna* plane, the President met the members of the Bicol Bloc at a breakfast conference upon his arrival at the Palace about 8 a.m.

Members of the Bloc, headed by Sen. Edmundo B. Cea, pledged their support to the various administration measures. They discussed with the President matters affecting their region, such as appointments, public works and irrigation projects, etc.

AFTER breakfast at 9:30 a.m., the President proceeded to his executive office, where he began to receive the day's callers.

A delegation from Mauban, Quezon, led by Rep. Manuel Enverga and Mayor Amado Clemente of Mauban, was among the first to see the President. They came to ask the President for P350,000 to help finance their water works project in Mauban.

The President authorized the release of the necessary funds and also granted the use of Army engineers whom they had requested to help them in the construction of roads. Army personnel were assigned to assist in the surveying and subdividing of lands.

Gov. Vicente Constantino accompanied another delegation to see the President about the water works project in the Dumacaa River irrigation system.

Another group from Atimonan, Quezon, came to see the President to ask for funds for their river control projects. They also informed the President of the urgency of repairing the town's bridge leading to Mauban.

Gov. Patricio Fernandez of Palawan also called to report to the President on the progress of a plan to expand water works facilities and general public works improvements in Palawan. President Magsaysay authorized the release of P200,000 for public works expenditures in Palawan's capital, Puerto Princesa.

The President also received Gov. Adelmo Camacho of Bataan, who called about local projects. During the call, Nicanor A. Roque, a political leader from Bataan and an ex-Liberal, was formally inducted into the Nacionalista Party by President Magsaysay. Accompanying Governor Camacho, who is on leave, were Acting Gov. Federico Muli, Mayor Lorenzo Bongco of Orani, and Mayor Faustino Vigo of Balanga.

Health Undersecretary Rafael Tumbokon made a brief call on the President prior to his departure for Mexico, where he will attend the international conference of the World Health Organization.

Last to confer with the President was Rep. Felipe Garduque, who accompanied a delegation asking the President for pre-fabricated school buildings for Cagayan.

Other callers included Brig. Gen. Eulogio Balao; Sens. Tomas Cabili and Macario Peralta; PNB President Arsenio Jison; Reps. Rogaciano Mercado of Bulacan, Lucas Paredes of Abra, Wenceslao Lagumbay of Laguna, Leonardo Perez of Nueva Vizcaya, and Jose Puey of Negros Occidental; Govs. Dominador Chipeco of Laguna and Alejandro Almendras of Davao; and Mrs. Maxima Dionisio. Governor Almendras came with several town mayors of Davao.

THE President this morning granted a 30-day extension, effective today, to some 200 families squatting on the North Harbor area. Assistant Executive Secretary Mariano Yenke, Jr., transmitted by phone the order to the office of the city mayor and subsequently forwarded the official communication.

Malacañang learned that some 200 families living in some 167 houses were scheduled to be ejected from the premises at the North Harbor today. The houses were supposed to be demolished this day. An official of the North Harbor Boulevard Civic Association had appealed to the city officials last night to stay the demolition of the houses. The ejection of the squatters was in pursuance to Executive Order No. 152.

Malacañang had to issue the order immediately as bulldozers were poised to demolish the houses of the squatters this morning.

IN his message to some 300 trainees in performance budgeting read today by Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona at Rizal Hall, President Magsaysay declared “the time has come to modernize our management in government so that it can effectively and economically serve our people.”

Commissioner Aytona welcomed the government trainees and explained the objectives of the training course which will extend from May 3–14 and which will feature both classroom and working group sessions under the guidance of budget experts and consultants.

“Several steps are in process to achieve this modernization,” the President’s message continued, one of the major phases being “the improvement of budgeting and accounting practices. In the budget field, this change was set in motion by the passage of Republic Act No. 992, the revised Budget Act, which requires performance budgeting.”

President Magsaysay told the representatives of all departments and bureaus concerned with budget preparation and execution that “performance budgeting is a part of a broad historical development of great significance to our country. You are,” he said, “here to be instruments of this development.”

“In this training conference,” the message added, “you will begin to learn the new skills needed to give competent technical support to your chiefs in this necessary and essential venture into modern budgeting.” (See pp. 2352–2353, for the full text of the President’s message.)

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this afternoon:

- (1) Spurred the irrigation division of the Bureau of Public Works to rush the 10 irrigation projects now being constructed in various parts of the country and complete the plans of the other irrigation systems in a determined effort to increase rice production;
- (2) Told Consulting Architect Federico Ilustre to finish at the earliest possible date the plans for the construction of the P2 million Manila International Airport terminal;
- (3) Told Public Works Secretary and PHHC Manager Vicente Orosa to hurry up with the P6 million housing project in Bago Bantay, Quezon City, and the P2 million housing project in Tondo, Manila;
- (4) Said that he was not in favor of the closing of the National Rice and Corn Corporation; and
- (5) Conferred with Prosecutor Agapito Conchu, who said that he was ready to file the cases in connection with the Caledonia Pile investigations.

THE President spent the afternoon making surprise visits to the office of Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevosio, various offices in the Department of Public Works and Communications, and the NARIC offices on Azcarraga. It was in the course of these inspections that the Chief Executive gave his directives. He said that he had undertaken the inspections to find out if government employees were on their jobs in spite of the half-day privilege granted them by the government during the warm season.

Leaving Malacañang at about 3 p.m., the President first dropped in on Secretary Adevosio with whom he conferred for a few minutes regarding routine matters about his department.

The President then motored to the Department of Public Works and Communications in the Posts Office Building and saw first Agapito T. Alano, chief of the irrigation division, and Tomas de Guzman, chief of the irrigation section, in the absence of Julian Buendia, director of public works and supervising irrigation engineer, who was out in the field.

The President conferred for a long time with these two officials on the progress of the construction of irrigation systems throughout the country. He also was informed that 10 such projects were already under construction with

several others in the blueprint stage. The President had previously requested for irrigation the sum of P50 million from Congress, to be included in the bond issue for this fiscal year, but he had been informed by the irrigation officials that plans had already been started and surveys made of other projects totalling P150 million.

The President reiterated his previous directives that the contractors undertaking the different jobs be requested to employ men on three shifts in order that the irrigation systems, very badly needed in the production of rice, could be completed sooner. The President was informed that the P2,400,000 Daet (Camarines Norte) irrigation project would be placed on bid on May 19, and that the roads needed in the construction of the P4,856,000 Magat irrigation system in Isabela had already been started. The President had the opportunity to talk to Lorenzo Q. Vidal, contractor of the Magat irrigation system, who told the Chief Executive of the progress of the construction work.

The President then conferred with Consulting Architect Federico Ilustre on the progress of the plans for the P2 million airport terminal, the construction of which had been approved by the President in a recent Cabinet meeting. Ilustre said that a team of architects was rushing the details of the plans and he expected the work to be finished soon.

At this instance, Secretary Orosa arrived from his office at the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation, where he had been earlier. The President told Orosa to step up work on the low-cost housing projects of the government. Orosa said that P250,000 had already been released to start work on the P6 million Bago Bantay (Quezon City) project. He said that under the present plan, the types of houses to be built are the single, the double, the row houses, and the two-story houses. He said that the three-story types were not practical.

The President told him to go ahead with the construction of the housing project in Tondo, to help the poor in that district and reduce the slum-district.

The President expressed great satisfaction upon finding that not only the officials but also the employees were working whole day. Turning to the employees who had gathered around him, the President said: "I am very happy to see that you are working very hard. I congratulate you for your dedication to service in not observing the half-day office schedule in order to finish these rush jobs of the government intended for the benefit of the people. Your industry and patriotism inspire me to work harder in the performance of my duties."

From the Post Office Building, the President motored to the NARIC offices on Azcarraga, where he wanted to meet the different regional NARIC chiefs and branch managers who were holding a seminar in the office of the NARIC chairman-manager.

In the absence of NARIC Chairman Juan O. Chioco, who was out in the field, the President conferred with Col. Gregorio Quiambao and Julio Leuterio of the Central Bank, who had been detailed to the NARIC. He also talked to the officials attending the seminar and was pleased that they were doing their best to systemized and coordinate the overall activities of the corporation.

The President told the NARIC officials that he had been reading about the good work being performed by the corporation. He congratulated them for their efforts. He added that regarding speculations to the effect that the NARIC was going to be abolished, they should not fear because he was not in favor of the closing of the NARIC, at least for the present. This statement drew jubilation among the officials and employees who thanked him for his visit.

The President said: "I congratulate you for doing a good job. I hope that you will even do better."

The President was accompanied in his surprise visits by Assistant Press Secretary Guillermo V. Sison and Maj. Pat Garcia, presidential aide.

FROM the NARIC, the President returned to Malacañang, where he conferred with Prosecutor Agapito Conchu and Judge Jose Sapuriada, members of the committee which had been investigating the Caledonia pile case.

Conchu reported to the President on the progress of his investigation and told the Chief Executive that he was ready to file cases against those involved but that he was waiting for the green light from Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason.

The President told Conchu and Sapuriada that he would confer with Secretary Tuason about the matter tomorrow morning during the Cabinet meeting as to the final action to be taken.

May 4.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay assured this morning that there is no plan to grant amnesty to top Huk leaders currently serving prison terms at the state penitentiary in Muntinlupa, Rizal. The assurance was given to a large delegation from the Citizen's Committee for Good Government which presented him with a petition signed by 130,000 residents of 442 municipalities in various parts of the country, opposing any move to extend clemency to the captured Huk leaders.

The President told the group that he knew of no serious plan to restore freedom to political prisoners. However, he assured the delegation that he would give the weightiest consideration to their petition should any such plan be proposed in the future.

Accompanied by Rep. Joaquin R. Roces of Manila, members of the delegation informed the President that the anti-amnesty drive had been launched a year ago by the Cebu CCGG with the full support of the Catholic Action, in anticipation of the shift of Huk strategy to peaceful infiltration of government offices.

P. B. Clavano, CCGG provincial chairman of Cebu, who handed the petition to the President, recalled that Huk Supremo Luis Taruc, on his surrender, had offered his services to the Administration's program of rural improvement. Also with the group was Dr. Jose M. Hernandez of the Catholic Action of the Philippines.

ANOTHER large delegation composed of representatives of various chambers of commerce in the Philippines who will represent this country in the forthcoming congress of the International Chamber of Commerce to be held in Tokyo from May 15 to 21 this year, called to pay their respects prior to their departure for the Japanese capital.

The President asked them to contact foreign capitalists attending the congress and invite them to the Philippines with a view to interesting them to invest here. He also requested the delegates to look into possibilities of expanding trade relations between this country and Japan.

Headed by Teofilo D. Reyes, chairman, the group included Bienvenido R. Medrano, Jose G. Sanvictores, Fernando Chua, Sy En, John T. Naylor, Pierre Deleplanque, Cirilo Paredes, Conrado Vicente, Benjamin R. Salonga (secretary), Vicente Dy Sun, Francisco Gutierrez, Pancracio Estayo, Eduardo Escobar, P. B. Dionisio, Luciano Lopez, Teddy Lim, Enrique Zalamea, Pedro H. Manayon, Jose Villarama, and Pedro Siojo.

DESPITE his Cabinet meeting scheduled at 10 a.m., the President received numerous callers.

Dr. Mohammed Fadhil Al-Jamali, foreign minister of Iraq, called to pay his respects following his recent arrival here from Bandung, Indonesia, where he headed his country's delegation to the Asian-African conference. Accompanied by Counselor Rashim Al-Hilli, Dr. Jamali spent a considerable part of his visit expounding to the President some of his political philosophies and his views on the world situation.

Doctor Jamali expressed hope that the President would visit his country. He also suggested the sending of a Philippine trade mission to Iraq for the purpose of exploring trade possibilities between the two countries.

A delegation from Mindanao, composed of Reps. Domocao Alonto of Lanao and Luminog Mangelen of Cotabato and former Senator Salipada Pendatun, called to request a presidential message for the convention of the Moslem Association to be held in Cotabato, Cotabato, next month. During the call, Rep. Mangelen also requested P300,000 for the installation of a water system in Cotabato town.

A large delegation of farmers from Victoria, Tarlac, also called to request assistance for the construction of school buildings, roads, and artesian wells. The group was accompanied by Sen. Macario Peralta, Jr.

Other callers included Reps. Jose Aldeguer and Ricardo Ladrado of Iloilo, Emilio Cortez of Pampanga, and Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevosos.

THE President convoked the regular weekly meeting of his Cabinet at 10:30 a.m.

President Magsaysay approved at the Cabinet meeting today the agreement between the Philippine and the British Governments on the recruitment of 5,000 Filipino laborers to work in British North Borneo.

The agreement, which the Chief Executive approved on recommendation of Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia, will now go to the Senate for ratification.

Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevosos advised the Cabinet meeting that the agreement calls for an annual recruitment of 5,000 Filipinos to work in British North Borneo. Among its main conditions is that Filipinos will not be made to work on plantations growing crops that will compete with Philippine products. The agreement also provides for satisfactory wages and working conditions for the Filipinos.

The President also ordered at the Cabinet meeting the amendment of an existing executive order limiting government consumption of cement to the output of the Cebu Portland Cement Company. The proposed amendment will open the doors to private manufacturers to enter into competitive bidding for the supply of cement to the government.

In ordering this amendment, the Chief Executive reaffirmed the principle of encouraging and protecting private enterprise. He said the Cebu Portland Cement Company is not entitled to enjoy special privileges over private manufacturers.

The Cabinet also:

(1) Created an inter-departmental committee to oversee government purchases of supplies and equipment. The committee will be composed of representatives of the Department of Finance, Department of Public Works and Communications, the Armed Forces, the Budget Commission, and the General Auditing Office;

(2) Approved PHILCUSA-FOA scholarships for 288 persons, mostly government officials;

(3) Heard Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason inform the President that he (Tuason) had directed Special Prosecutor Agapito R. Conchu of the Department of Justice to give a fair hearing to suspects in the Caledonia Pile case before instituting any court action; and

(4) Authorized Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia to organize the Philippine delegation to the United Nations international scientific conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy to be held at Geneva, Switzerland, next August. The Cabinet also reiterated its invitation to private citizens interested in this matter to seek membership in the Philippine delegation to the meet.

IMMEDIATE dismissal from office of Engracio Santos, suspended mayor of San Juan, Rizal, was recommended today to the President in a memorandum submitted by the presidential committee which conducted the investigation of the administrative charge of misconduct in office against Santos.

Policarpia Banzuelo, the complaining witness, had sometime last year sought the aid of the President in connection with her original complaint of rape against Mayor Santos. Santos was then suspended by the President.

The committee, chairmanned by Judge Roman Cruz, with Jesus Paredes and Prof. Enrique M. Fernando as members, found the story of the complainant entitled to more credibility than that of the respondent.

In the eight-page memorandum, the committee concluded that the “evidence on record establishes beyond doubt that the act imputed to the respondent (Mayor Santos) was committed by him.”

AFTER a grueling day with an unusually big number of callers and a meeting with the Cabinet, the President flew again to Baguio City in the afternoon.

May 5.—IN a determined effort to whip out support for his administration bills now being “frozen” on the legislative agenda, the President held a breakfast conference with the Democratic Party leaders in Congress this morning.

Present at the conference were Sens. Fernando Lopez, Tomas Cabili, and Lorenzo Sumulong, and Reps. Jose Roy of Tarlac and Lucas Paredes of Abra. They pledged support of administration measures pending in Congress.

AFTER the breakfast conference, the President received newly-appointed Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno, who is currently serving as representative for Romblon and chairman of the House committee on public works.

Moreno will give up his position in Congress after the regular session and will assume office as member of the Cabinet. He called on the President the day after his nomination as public works secretary was confirmed by the Commission on Appointments.

President Magsaysay directed Moreno to rush all irrigation projects as soon as he assumed office. He also told Moreno that the proposed appropriation of P1.4 million for surveying the irrigation projects of the government should be increased to P2 million. For the immediate completion of all the irrigation projects, the President informed Moreno that the irrigation fund would be increased through bond issues and loans.

THE Philippine delegation to the second Southeast Asia Film Festival to be held in Singapore, Malaya, from May 13 to 21 also called on the President before leaving for Singapore. The delegates were Manuel de Leon, Dr. Ciriaco Santiago, Narciso Pimentel, Jr., who will be a juror at the film festival, and Movie Actor Rogelio de la Rosa.

Among the early callers of the President were some municipal officials of Lingayen, Pangasinan. They requested aid for the construction and completion of public works projects in Lingayen. They also pledged their full support to the President’s administration. The municipal officials were Vice-Mayor Silverio Arias and Councilors Mrs. Nancy Q. Sison, Mrs. Susana Almazan, Maximo Cuesta, Jr., and Silvestre Vila.

THE President this noon held a long conference with Ambassador Felino Neri, chief reparations negotiator, who received final instructions prior to his departure for Tokyo to participate in the final phases of the reparations negotiations.

Ambassador Neri is scheduled to leave for the Japanese capital tomorrow morning aboard a Northwest Airlines plane to join the Philippine technical panel which has been discussing with its Japanese counterpart technical details of the reparations question.

THE President followed a heavy schedule of callers this morning. He received visitors at his private study and later at his executive office from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

A delegation from the United Disabled Veterans’ Association of the Philippines headed by its president, Manuel Vergel, requested that additional housing units be reserved for disabled vets at the new government housing project in South Bago Bantay, Quezon City. The delegation said that the 100 units reserved for them by the SWA were not sufficient to cope with numerous applications received from disabled vets.

Some 500 secondary school teachers, principals, and supervisors also called to pledge their support to the Administration's program of rural improvement. Headed by Prof. Antonio Isidro, the group called at Malacañang prior to their return to their respective provinces after completing a three-week "workshop" at the University of the Philippines on the improvement of the secondary school curriculum.

A delegation of Pasay City Lions headed by Carlos Rivilla, newly elected Lions district governor, invited the President to be guest at the induction of new officers to be held in Bacolod City in August.

Another delegation composed of farmers from barrio Mambangman, San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija, asked the expropriation of a 460-hectare estate in their locality and its distribution to tenants. This group was accompanied by NARIC General Manager Juan O. Chioco.

J. B. C. Henderson, manager of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, invited the President to the 75th anniversary celebration of the company's operation in the Philippines. He was accompanied by N. Y. Orosa.

Officers of the Reserve Officers Legion headed by Col. Jose Razon, national president, sought assistance in the approval of a bill providing for gratuities for reverted reserve officers in the Army. The group informed the President that the bill had been passed by the House last year and is now pending consideration by the Senate.

Samuel J. Wilson, president and chairman of the board of directors of the Carmelo & Bauermann, called to pay his respects following his recent arrival here.

Other callers included Charles H. Davies and Ricardo Descals, incoming and outgoing general managers, respectively, of the Tabacalera; Sen. Justiniano S. Montano; and Reps. Carlos Tan of Leyte, Leonardo Perez of Nueva Vizcaya, Pio Duran of Albay, Jacobo Gonzales of Laguna, Erasmo Cruz of Bulacan, and Samuel Reyes of Isabela; and Phan Quang Dan, former minister of information in Viet Nam.

THE President conferred this afternoon with a joint committee of nine veterans organizations which discussed with him their problems and asked the Government's help to solve them.

The conference sparked a sentiment for the unification of the various veterans organizations. The conferees also discussed how the veterans, including the disabled ones, could contribute to the economic development of the country and, in the case of the disabled veterans, how they could rehabilitate themselves through self-help projects.

The veterans organizations represented in the conference were the Philippine Veterans Legion, the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, the United Disabled Veterans, the Filipino Disabled Veterans, the USAFFE Veterans Legion, the ROTC Guerrillas, the CONVETS, the COWHM (Chinese unit), and the Philippine Veterans Ladies Auxiliary.

The delegation was headed by Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevosio, with the following veterans officers: Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque, (Ret.), Rafael Estrada, Col. Frisco San Juan, Isaac Eceta, Ramon Bagatsing, and Capt. Mario Hilario, chairman of the Philippine Veterans Board.

The President expressed hope that the various veterans organizations will unite themselves into one group in order that they could work together harmoniously and more effectively for the benefit of all the members. He said that although he was once a member of one of the organizations, as President of the Philippines he could not favor any of the groups but would treat them all alike.

The officers of the different organizations agreed with the President and expressed a strong sentiment toward the realization of a unified veterans organization.

The President was asked by spokesmen of the veterans organizations to help them in the passage of bills pending in Congress aimed at benefiting the veterans and their families. The President said that those bills which require appropriations might be difficult to pass because of lack of funds. But he promised to help them in other respects.

Regarding the request for the rehabilitation of disabled veterans, the President directed that they prepare a bill appropriating some P5 million for the establishment of plants where disabled veterans could be profitably employed. Among the plants under consideration were a plywood factory, a tobacco redrying machine plant, and dairy farms. He said that he was personally interested in the realization of such rehabilitation projects and that he wanted these projects under the direction of the Philippine Veterans Board.

The President appointed a committee composed of Capt. Hilario Hilario as chairman, Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque as vice-chairman, and Frisco San Juan, Manuel Vergel, and Francisco Gonzales as members, to study the rehabilitation needs of the veterans and to submit to him a concrete plan of the veterans for their projects.

After the conference, Mrs. Luz B. Sese, president of the Philippine Veterans Ladies Auxiliary, sold the President two tickets for a movie for the benefit of the organization.

FROM his study room where he conferred with the veterans, the President proceeded to his ante-room where he met with his special committee which had screened administration bills.

The President met with the special Cabinet committee, headed by Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta, which submitted to him a list of 34 bills screened by the committee for the President to certify as urgent.

The bills are designed to revitalize the economy of the country, help solve the unemployment problem, and implement the Administration's commitments to the people on rural improvement. The committee had worked on these bills during the last two days. The President will discuss these bills with leaders of Congress at a breakfast conference tomorrow.

THE President said this afternoon that he was still going over the report of Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., on the case of Private Schools Director Daniel Salcedo.

The President meanwhile directed NARRA Manager Eligio Tavanlar to refer to the secretary of national defense for study the letter of Kamlon offering to surrender.

The President also forwarded to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation the nominations of:

(1) Col. Manuel Turingan as chairman of the board of directors of the Philippine Tobacco Administration, for a term of five years expiring December 22, 1959;

(2) Modesto Castillo, as presiding judge of the Court of Industrial Relations, replacing Judge Arsenio C. Roldan, retired; and

(3) Vicente S. Ocol, as clerk of court of the court of first instance of Quezon City.

May 6.—AT a breakfast conference this morning with coalition leaders at Malacañang, the President received assurances of coalition support for vital legislation aimed at implementing his administration program.

It was agreed at the conference that in case Congress is unable to act on the bills within the remaining period of the current regular session, the President will summon Congress to a special session to begin immediately on the day following the close of the regular session so as to cut down expenses to a minimum.

Present at the conference were Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr.; Sens. Cipriano Primicias, Fernando Lopez, Justiniano S. Montano, Emmanuel Pelaez, and Gil J. Puyat; Speaker Jose Laurel, Jr.; Reps. Daniel Z Romualdez of

Leyte, Arturo M. Tolentino of Manila, Lorenzo Teves of Negros Oriental, Godofredo Ramos of Capiz, Jose A. Aldeguer of Iloilo, and Jose J. Roy of Tarlac; and OEC Administrator Alfredo Montelibano and NPC General Manager Filemon M. Zablan.

AFTER the breakfast conference, the President received Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia with whom he discussed various subjects, including the scheduled state visit of Pakistan Prime Minister Mohammed Ali.

The President was informed today by Vice-President Garcia, concurrently secretary of foreign affairs, about the arrival in the Philippines of the Pakistan prime minister within the last week of May.

The President instructed Vice-President Garcia to transmit to the visiting dignitary his invitation to be his house guest at Malacañang. Prime Minister Mohammed Ali will be the second head of state to be so received by the President this year. The first was Thailand Prime Minister Field Marshal Pibul Songgram.

At the same conference, the President approved the recommendation of Vice-President Garcia for the suspension of Consul Tagakotta Sotto, charge d'Affaires of the Philippine legation in Karachi, Pakistan. The suspension was for abandonment of office. Without any clearance from the home office, Sotto had left his job in Karachi and gone to Europe. According to last report, he is now in Switzerland.

The President also approved the assignment of two foreign affairs officers and a stenographer to the SEATO secretariat to be established in Bangkok, Thailand. Under an agreement among the SEATO powers, each member nation will contribute personnel to this secretariat. Vice-President Garcia said he will soon name the recommendees to be assigned to Bangkok.

THE President later shifted to his regular callers and announced the distribution of 30,000 hectares of public lands to farmers in Tapa-Jamindan, Capiz. He issued this decision upon the request of Reps. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing and Godofredo Ramos of Capiz.

Fifty farmers, representing 500 delegates to the first national convention of the Philippine farmers being held in Diliman, Quezon City, called on the President to present resolutions approved at their six-day convention.

Youngest caller was Wilfredo Punsalan, a 10-year old boy from Sta. Fe, Romblon, who sent the President a Yuletide card last Christmas. Wilfredo was accompanied by his father, Jose Punsalan, and a younger brother.

Other callers were Reps. Pedro Trono of Iloilo, Pedro Lopez of Cebu, Francisco Perfecto of Cataduanes, and Reynaldo Honrado of Surigao.

IN the afternoon, the President ordered Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff, to investigate immediately the complaint that the Army had been collecting palay from the tenants in the Army reservation in Silawit, Cauayan, Isabela.

The President this morning received a complaint that on superior orders, Sgt. Berras of the 10th BCT had collected some 300 sacks of palay from some 17 tenants as the Army's share from the produce of the tenants living in the Army reservation.

The President told Vargas to question immediately Maj. Federico Olores, CO of the 10th BCT, and Sgt. Berras on the matter. He added that if the two officers could not explain the case satisfactorily they should be court martialed if the circumstances warranted such action.

May 7.—NEEDED by a growing agitation in the rank of his own party on the issue of the Administration's foreign policy revision, the President was reported to be in bad humor early this morning. He received no callers this day and he did not meet the delegation of residents of Imus, Cavite, who came to Malacañang to protest against the conversion of their town into a city.

The President summoned his driver shortly after breakfast and, finding the latter not in his station, walked toward the Malacañang garage and drove a car personally out of the Palace grounds.

Not even the President's aide, Maj. Pat Garcia, knew where the President had gone. He did not go to the farmer's convention in Diliman, Quezon City, where he was scheduled to address the closing day of the confab. He returned to the Palace at noon time.

AFTER staying a few minutes in the Palace, the President left again for the Nichols Air Base, where he boarded his *Cessna* plane for Poro Point. He returned to Malacañang at 7 o'clock in the evening.

SOME 500 residents of Imus, Cavite, led by suspended Gov. Dominador Camerino and Mayor Dominador Ilano, trooped to Malacañang this noon to protest against a bill seeking to change the status of the municipality of Imus into that of a chartered city. The bill was introduced by Rep. Jose T. Cajulis of Cavite.

Upon their arrival at Malacañang they were met by Assistant Executive Secretary Mariano A. Yenke, Jr., and Technical Assistant Sofronio Quimson, who immediately heard their complaints. A closed envelope containing the resolution of the municipal council and petitions against the bill signed by the residents and civic organizations was handed to Quimson.

Ilano stated the proponents of the bill did not consult them regarding the matter. He said the bill if enacted would force the people of Imus, who are mostly farmers, to assume "financial burden" which would be impossible for the people of that town to bear, and would deprive them of the privilege of participating in the elections of the officials of their province.

May 8.—AFTER taking time out the previous day from state functions by driving a car and flying to Poro Point in his *Cessna* plane, the President buckled down to work this morning to catch up with the backlog of state papers.

Before working on pending state papers, the President conferred with OEC Administrator Alfredo Montelibano on several matters affecting government corporations. He discussed with Montelibano details of the plans to make government corporations more effective agencies in improving the national economy.

IN the afternoon, the President went horseback riding at Fort Wm. McKinley. He was accompanied by his aide, Maj. Pat Garcia.

IN the evening, the President received Collector of Internal Revenue J. Antonio Araneta, who presented his resignation from the government for "reasons of health." Araneta told the President that he had been advised by his physician to take things easy.

AFTER receiving Araneta, the President had a dinner conference with Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr. No details were given about the conference.

May 9.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this day ordered Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff, to send Army men to hasten the investigation of murder cases in Nueva Vizcaya. He also directed General Vargas to have the Army disarm all civilians in Nueva Vizcaya. The Chief Executive ordered the disarming of all civilians to avoid reprisals and vengeance.

The slow pace of the investigation of the murder cases was brought to the attention of the President by a delegation of five men from Nueva Vizcaya, one of whom claimed that his son was among those murdered. The murder cases have been dragging on for a number of years.

THE President said that he would convene the National Security Council for a fill-in on the decisions reached by the SEATO military planners at the recent conference in Baguio City. He decided to convene the NSC after a

conference with Defense Secretary Sotero B. Cabahug and Gen. Jesus Vargas, who gave him a brief summary of what transpired at the SEATO military meet in Baguio City.

The Chief Executive said that he would call the NSC to a meet after he received a formal report from Secretary Cabahug and General Vargas.

The members of the NSC would be furnished with copies of the report, according to General Vargas. The report will be discussed among the SEATO military advisers in Bangkok, Thailand, next month.

THE President today received Dr. Mahmud Fawzi, foreign minister of Egypt, who paid his respects. Minister Fawzi is here on a two-day state visit at the invitation of the Philippine Government.

The President was informed by Minister Fawzi of the vast irrigation projects harnessed along the Nile River. The Chief Executive told the Egyptian foreign minister that he was greatly interested in irrigation. He said that he had asked for P150 million in the budget for irrigation alone.

Foreign Minister Fawzi was met at the door of the study room by the President and after greeting and shaking hands with him, was led to the table where the President conversed with him for about 10 minutes.

Subjects covered by the discussion during the courtesy call were the industries and products of Egypt. Minister Fawzi said that Egypt is concentrating on industrialization because of the increasing population.

Dr. Fawzi told the President that he is well treated here and is feeling very much at home. He was invited by the Chief Executive to extend his visit for even a one-day trip to Baguio.

BEFORE receiving Foreign Minister Fawzi, the President received many callers consisting of senators, representatives, governors, and provincial delegations.

A 150-man delegation from Romblon presented the President with a resolution thanking him "for the great honor you have bestowed upon the small province of Romblon" for the appointment of Rep. Florencio Moreno as secretary of public works and communications. The delegation was composed of Nacionalistas, Liberals, and Democrats and was headed by former Rep. Gabriel Fabella. Rep. Moreno accompanied the delegation.

The President told the delegation that he had been observing Rep. Moreno for a number of years and was sure that he would make good as secretary of public works and communications. "With him there, I am sure we will succeed," the President said.

Among the first callers of the President were the members of the executive committee of the Rural Bankers Association who invited him to induct their officers on May 20. The rural bankers were accompanied by Economic Coordination Administrator Alfredo Montelibano, who is acting president of the association.

The President was shown samples of plastic wares being manufactured locally by Eusobio Morales, manager of the Morales Engineering Works. The plastic products consisted of plates, cups hats, raincoats, and bowls. The President expressed interest when Morales demonstrated that the plastic products were unbreakable. Others with Morales were Arsenio Luz, Jr., sales manager of the firm, and Mrs. Mary Joaquin

Director Benjamin Gozon of the Bureau of Mines accompanied to Malacañang George O. Argall, editor of the *Mining World* published in San Francisco, California, U.S.A., who had been visiting all the mines in the Philippines for an article in his magazine. Argall told the President that the mines here could be improved very much with the acquisition of modern machinery and spare parts. George Scheley, chief geologist of Soriano and Company, was also with Argall.

Another caller was Carl Ljunberg, secretary-general of the International Civil Aviation Organization, who was accompanied by Civil Aeronautics Administrator Urbano Caldoza. Ljunberg is here on a short visit. Others with Ljunberg were Dr. Poliu Dai, also of the ICAO, and Capt. E. M. Assistores, deputy administrator of the CAA.

Three officials of the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) also paid a courtesy call on the President. The officials were Meade Brunet, vice-president and managing director of the RCA international division; Leonard Skoblin, Southeast Asia field representative; Charles P. Boswell, regional director; and Eugenio Padua, president and general manager of the Philippine Engineering Corporation.

Rep. Jose Corpuz of Nueva Ecija accompanied a 12-man delegation from his province which requested aid for their irrigation system and reallocation of lands. Mayor Manuel Soriano of Pagsanjan, Laguna, also requested aid for waterworks in his town. He was accompanied to Malacañang by Rep. Wenceslao R. Lagumbay.

Before a delegation from Negros Oriental headed by Rep. Lorenzo Teves, the President signed into law a bill creating the municipality of San Jose in Negros Oriental.

Other callers of the President included Sens. Quintin Paredes and Justiniano S. Montano; Reps. Luis Hora of Mountain Province, Ombra Amilbansa of Sulu, Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur, Serafin Salvador of Rizal, and Guillermo Sanchez of Agusan; and Gov. Patricio Fernandez of Palawan and Philippine Minister to Australia Roberto Regala.

THE President in the afternoon, received the officers and the board of directors of the NARRA who reported that, within the months of March and April, the NARRA had resettled a total of 1,263 families.

The report submitted by NARRA Manager Eligio J. Tavanlar said that out of this total number of families, 638 were settler-families drawn from heavy-tenanted provinces in Luzon, Negros Occidental, Cebu, and Panay. It added that of this number of families, 106 had been taken from the four haciendas of the Lichaucos, Cojuangcos, Primicias, and Villareals in Central Luzon.

The report further said that the other 625 pioneer-families resettled in NARRA projects in Wao, Lanao; Buluan, Cotabato; and Koronadal Valley had formed part of the floating farmer population in these areas of Mindanao. The NARRA aimed ultimately to make these families productive on lands which could call their own.

Aside from the Tavanlar, the other NARRA officials present were Agriculture Undersecretary Jaime Ferrer, chairman of the board; board members Mrs. Remedios Fortich, Eugenio Reyes, Valeriano Plantilla, and Rafael Hilao; NARRA Assistant Manager Cesario Clemente; and Board Secretary Bienvenido Castillo.

The President told the NARRA officials to be very careful and to do their best in the implementation of resettlement projects. "You cannot afford to fail in this work," the President said.

Tavanlar told the President the NARRA had coordinated with the office of the director of forestry with regard to the release of deforested lands so that there would be no delay in the allocation of lands to settlers. He also said that the FOA was giving the NARRA two sawmills in September which would be used in helping tenants in their logging activities in the Panacan area resettlement in Palawan.

The President spurred the NARRA officials to hurry up with the survey of lands earmarked for distribution to settlers. He cautioned them not to admit more settlers than could be accommodated.

Tavanlar also reported that the death of Wao Project Superintendent Lt. Col. Mariano Griño had been due to suicide.

AFTER the meeting with the NARRA officials, the President received the members of the committee on the purchase of landed estates composed of Undersecretary Jaime Ferrer as chairman, and Lt. Col. Guillermo Santos and Manuel E. Castañeda, as members.

The committee recommended to the President as a means of raising revenue for the purchase of landed estates by the government the following: (1) bond issue, (2) certification of the land reform bill creating the Land Tenure Authority, (3) certification of the assessment tax bill, (4) sale of all urban and real property of the government in the City of Manila which could be withdrawn from public use, (5) liquidation as soon as possible of the capital investment in the present landed estates purchase program of the government, and (6) loans.

May 10.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning received Mrs. Adelina Ramos, who personally appealed for justice and for the apprehension of the killers of her husband who she claimed had been murdered about two years ago on orders of Vigan Mayor Lorenzo Formoso.

Bringing along her four children aged from seven to one year, Mrs. Ramos recounted the circumstances surrounding the killing of her husband at 10 a.m., on August 16, 1953, near the municipal building of Vigan. According to her, her husband had been ambushed by Mayor Formoso's goons and policemen with Thompson machine gun and carbines belonging to the Vigan police force.

The widow told the President that the murderers of her husband had never been apprehended as no witnesses dared testify for fear of reprisals. It was only when the Vigan mayor was suspended by President Magsaysay owing to serious administrative charges filed against him by Rep. Floro S. Crisologo of Ilocos Sur that persons who had seen the killing expressed their willingness to come forward and testify, Mrs. Ramos said.

The President promptly referred the case to the National Bureau of Investigation for immediate investigation and possible prosecution of the culprits. Also with the widow during her call at Malacañang were Rep. Crisologo and relatives of her deceased husband.

THE President received numerous callers this morning, mostly delegations made up of provincial and municipal officials who presented some of their pressing problems.

Mayor Dominador Dandan of Lubao, Pampanga, headed a large delegation of fishermen who vigorously protested against the conversion of 52 public streams and rivers into fishponds by private landowners from Rizal and Bulacan. The delegation was accompanied by Rep. Diosdado Macapagal.

Another delegation from Quezon requested funds for the construction of roads, waterworks, and school buildings. Accompanied by Reps. Leon Guinto, Jr., and Manuel Enverga, the delegation also complained of abuses allegedly being committed by special policemen of the Ibona Estate in the Infanta-Gen. Nakar areas.

Gov. Rafael Lazatin of Pampanga called to present Dr. Librado Santos, senior board member in his province, who will be acting governor during his one month leave of absence.

Gov. Patricio Fernandez of Palawan also called to request P200,000 for the improvement of the waterworks in Puerto Princesa, while Rep. Alberto Ubay sought the release of P90,000 for the construction of roads in Zamboanga del Norte.

Reps. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz and Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur saw the President about the appropriation of P17 million needed for salary adjustment of teachers.

The President this day, was informed of the latest developments in the campaign against Moro outlaw Kamlon by Sulu Gov. Leon Fernandez. The Sulu governor gave the Chief Executive a detailed account of the recent apprehension of Kamlon's wife and two sons. Captured recently by the Jolo Task Force were Mora Hadjuria, Kamlon's wife; Basaron, seven-year oldest son; and Abdusali, two-year youngest son.

Reps. Erasmo Cruz and Rogaciano Mercado of Bulacan accompanied a delegation of squatters on a privately-owned lot in Blumentritt who sought the help of the President in the acquisition of the one-hectare residential land at a reasonable price. The squatters, represented by their lawyer, Arsenio Eeyes, claimed that they were being charged

exorbitant rents for the land. They said they were willing to buy the land at P20 to P22.50 per square meter but the owner wanted P30 per square meter. The squatters admitted that an order upholding the right of the owner to charge as much as he wanted for the rental of his land had been issued by the court of first instance.

According to Atty. Reyes, the land was bought by the present owner from Gregorio Araneta and Co. at P15 per square meter. The President called Justice Undersecretary Jesus Barrera and referred the case to him for study.

THE Chief Executive accepted the invitation of the Labor-Management Advisory Council to deliver a speech before the Labor Congress on its closing day on May 28 in the afternoon. The invitation was extended to the President by Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevos; Francisco Dalupan, chairman of the Labor-Management Advisory Council; Teofilo Reyes, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and member of the council for management; and Cipriano Cid, member of the council for labor.

Gov. Francisco Infantado of Mindoro Oriental headed a delegation of mayors and councilors from his province who requested aid for the construction of public markets, a sea wall, waterworks, and other public works projects. With Gov. Infantado were Mayors Felizardo Fortunato of Pola, Angel Rodriguez of Bongabong, and Faustino Aldaba of San Teodoro and members of their municipal councils. Mayor Fortunato complained of the lack of charity physicians in his town.

Rep. Domingo Veloso of Leyte accompanied three mayors from his province who also sought aid. The mayors were Agustin Espina of Libagon, Primo Cordeta of Cabucgayan, and Teodulo Tandayag of Ormoc City.

Rep. Ramon Mitra of Mountain Province accompanied a delegation of Baguio squatters who told the President of their desire to buy the lot they were occupying from the Manila Railroad Company, owner of the lot

Another caller of the President was Monsgr. Charles E. Hagearty, public relations officer of the Archdiocese of Jaro, who had been preaching and appealing for help in the United States since 1948. Monsgr. Hagearty informed the President that the American people have a very high regard for him and his administration. The American domestic prelate was accompanied to Malacañang by Rev. Ciceron A. Martinez, secretary of Archbishop Jose Ma. Cuenco of Jaro.

Other callers of the Chief Executive included Reps. Tobias Fornier of Antique, Emilio Cortez of Pampanga, Constancio Castañeda of Tarlac, Luminog Mangelan of Cotabato, and Jacobo Gonzales of Laguna; Gov. Vicente Constantino of Quezon, Arsenio Lugay of Tarlac, and Patricio Fernandez of Palawan; and Cebu City Mayor Jose Rodriguez, OEC Administrator Alfredo Montelibano, and Philip Reed, visiting chairman of the board of directors of General Electric International.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay was informed this afternoon by U. S. Ambassador Homer Ferguson in a conference at Malacañang that the U. S. Embassy was prepared to discuss the military bases activation program on the basis of the President's recent suggestion. The conference, which lasted for about 20 minutes starting at 3 p.m., was limited to the activation of new U. S. bases on a lease-hold basis.

Realizing that these bases were vital to the defense of the Philippines in an atmosphere of growing world tension, the President recently suggested to Ambassador Ferguson that the activation program be launched underway. Acceptance of the President's proposal expressed by Ambassador Ferguson in today's conference at Malacañang cleared the way for the immediate start of military planning and construction.

It is understood that plans call for a large-scale construction program, involving local labor and materials, to accommodate the heavy equipment being brought in by the United States which would make the new bases among the most advanced military installations in this part of the world.

MALACAÑANG said today that President Magsaysay was awaiting the initial report of a special committee he had created to look into a contract entered into between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and a local dealer for the supply of P302,400 worth of equipment from Japan without public bidding.

The committee, created by the President immediately after the papers on the transaction had been submitted to him for approval, is composed of Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, chairman; Brig. Gen. Eulogio Balao, vice-chief of staff; Col. Diosdado Rodriguez, AFP inspector general; Col. Sixto Carlos, AFP judge advocate general; and Lt. Col. Lorenzo Camins, members.

The President suspended the transaction, wondering why it had been consummated without public bidding, and directed that an investigation be made. The contract with the dealer was perfected last April 29. It called for the supply of P802,400 worth of shelter halves, combat packs, suspenders, canteen covers, and first aid kits.

Malacañang said one of the aspects of the transaction being looked into by the committee was the fact that six days before the contract was consummated the price quotations submitted by the Philippine Procurement Mission in Japan on these goods were far lower than those at which the Armed Forces subsequently agreed to purchase them.

May 11.—EARLY this morning, the President signed seven bills in the presence of their respective authors. Among the bills signed into law today was H. B. No. 2528, now R. A. No. 1219, which revamps the city charter of Manila, making the vice-mayor the presiding officer of the municipal board with no right to vote except in case of a tie.

In approving the bill, the President expressed the hope that it will prevent too much politicking in the municipal board. A Malacañang spokesman said the President has observed that “political rivalries in the municipal board” in the choice of a board president has hamstrung legislative action to the prejudice of the city residents.

The President also signed today Proclamation No. 158, designating the period from June 1 to July 15, 1955, for the seventh annual fund campaign of the Community Chest of Greater Manila. The President called upon all residents, firms, and organizations in Manila and suburbs to support this annual campaign.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning took steps to protect local growers when he certified to the urgency of House Bill No. 372, banning the importation of onions, garlic, potatoes, and cabbages.

Authored by Reps. Ferdinand Marcos and Antonio Raquiza of Ilocos Norte, Francisco Ortega of La Union, and Celestino Juan of Nueva Ecija, the bill which had passed the House and now pending in the Senate, would prohibit completely the importation of these commodities except in cases of shortages in the local supply.

Under the proposed law, the existence of such shortages must be certified to by a board composed of the secretary of agriculture as chairman, and the secretary of commerce and industry and the ACCFA administrator as members, after which the President can authorize the PRISCO to import only such quantities as would be required to meet the local deficiency.

The President signed the certification during a call this morning by authors of the proposed measure. He said the measure will boost employment in areas where the banned commodities are produced. Under the bill, no dollar importation would be allowed under any circumstances for the banned commodities.

THE President also signed this morning three bills creating three new municipalities in the presence of their respective authors. One bill creating the town of Potia in Mt. Province was signed in the presence of Reps. Luis Hora and Juan Bondad; a second bill creating the town of Mayorga, Leyte, approved in the presence of Rep. Daniel Z. Romualdez; and a third bill creating the municipality of Llanera, Nueva Ecija, inked in the presence of Rep. Celestino Juan and a delegation headed by former Gov. Juan O. Chioco.

SHORTLY before 10 a.m., the Chief Executive received two visiting foreign personages who called to pay their respects. John M. Prentice, Australian radio commentator, gave the President several suggestion on the promotion of

closer relations between his country and the Philippines. Irving A. Baas, motion picture executive who is enroute to Singapore to attend the Southeast Asian Film Festival, also paid a courtesy call.

OTHER callers this morning included Reps. Paulino A. Alonzo of Cagayan, Ramon P. Mitra of Mt. Province, and Jacobo Gonzalez of Laguna; and Mayor Alfonso Tabora of Baguio City, who requested additional funds for the improvement of the Pine City's water system.

THE President convoked the weekly meeting of his Cabinet about 10 a.m.

The Cabinet with President Magsaysay presiding flashed the green light today for Philippine adherence with reservations to the convention relating to the status of stateless persons.

On recommendation of the Department of Justice, the Cabinet agreed that the Philippines point the convention provided it took exception to: (1) the provision granting stateless persons the right to engage in wage-earning employment, because this conflicts with the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940; and (2) the provision binding the contracting states not to expel stateless aliens from their respective countries except on grounds of national security and public order, because this would unduly restrict the power of the Philippine Government to expel undesirable aliens.

The Cabinet also:

(1) Authorized the Central Bank to invite bids for the salvaging of bullions of tins, copper, bronze sheets, and gold supposed to have been dumped by the Japanese imperial forces in the waters in the Babuyan Islands group. Conditions for the bidding will be similar to those imposed for the salvage of gold and other valuables off Corregidor Island;

(2) Decided to recommend to the CB Monetary Board the reduction by 50 per cent of all existing dollar quotas for the importation of rubber heels, heeling, and rolling sheets and rubber soling slabs used for the shoe industry; (This decision met half-way a petition of the Insular Rubber Co. for a complete ban on these imports. The company had claimed that it could produce all rubber heels needed in the country and turn out goods of equal quality and lower price as those imported.)

(3) Lifted partially the ban on the export of *bangus* fry, on petition of Batangas bangus fry concessionaries;

(4) Ordered the NARRA to transfer to the Board of Liquidators the balance of P1 million set aside for the payment of gratuities of laid-off employees of the defunct LASEDECO; (The Board of Liquidators will pay off the remaining claimants.)

(5) Approved the reclamation of 22 hectares in barrio Tambobong, Malabon, Rizal, for residential purposes.

Also at the Cabinet meeting, the President directed OEC Administrator, Alfredo Montelibano to study the feasibility of pulling out the land transportation arm of the Manila Railroad Company from routes adequately served by private operators, in line with the Administration's policy against government competition with private business.

MALACANANG said in the evening, President Magsaysay was determined to get to the bottom of the P802,400 Armed Forces supplies deal with Japan and to call to account all responsible persons if a thorough investigation of the transaction proved it to be irregular.

Press Secretary J. V. Cruz at the same time reiterated that it was President Magsaysay himself, who had questioned the transaction when it was brought to him for approval and had suspended execution of the contract. The Malacañang spokesman made this reiteration to make clear that the President had never approved the contract.

“The President wants the matter thoroughly investigated,” Cruz said. “If the transaction was irregular and several persons in the government were guilty, they will be dealt with accordingly.”

The President, according to Cruz, has instructed the investigating committee headed by Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol to speed up completion of its inquiry.

The President brought up the transaction during the Cabinet meeting today and deplored the fact that not enough care seemed to have been exercised by the series of officials who had looked over the contract and approved it. He added the deal would have pulled through had his approval not been sought for the dollar exchange necessary to carry out the contract.

The President cited this case as an example of the need for extreme care and caution on the part of government officials in approving money and supplies transactions, especially those involving large amounts.

May 12.—LEADING the nation in the observance of Hospital Week, the President this morning made an unexpected three-and-a-half hour swing through four government hospitals.

Accompanied by Dr. Jose Corpus, his personal physician, Press Secretary J. V. Cruz, and Maj. Pat Garcia, his aide, the President visited North General Hospital, San Lazaro Hospital, Philippine General Hospital, and V. Luna General Hospital.

He found the NGH and the SLH crowded with patients. In the SLH, he took time out to chat with Teresita Medum, a patient one year and three months old whose legs were in plaster casts and suspended from bars of her bed. He also met one Conrado de Jesus, a walking patient, 6 feet 8 inches tall, from San Felipe, Zambales.

At the V. Luna General Hospital, the President saw Sgt. Martiniano Mauhay, who was suffering from injuries sustained in the Army operations in Sulu. He immediately ordered the wounded sergeant decorated for heroism.

The President in all the hospitals he visited spread cheer among the patients. He was followed by a big crowd along the corridors and throughout the wards he visited.

Noting how the NGH was crowded with patients who were accommodated even in corridors, the President asked Director Jose Reyes if it would be possible to build a new building at the present site of the hospital to accommodate more patients. Dr. Reyes said that P1 million was available for the construction of the NGH Sampaloc annex but that it was necessary first to make negotiations with the City of Manila, which owns the site of the old NGH building.

In the San Lazaro Hospital the President saw similar crowded condition as at the NGH. Patients were accommodated along passageways for lack of rooms. He saw the progress of the construction work on the P2.5 million NGH at the San Lazaro grounds.

The President urged the expansion, as far as funds and personnel would allow, of the free home-extension service of hospitals to bring hospital services to the homes of the poor. He ordered the release of from P5,000 to P10,000 from the funds of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office for the purchase of medicines to be given free to indigent patients at the Philippine General Hospital.

Moreover, the President directed Health Secretary Paulino Garcia and PGH Director Florencio Quintos to investigate an alleged case of discourtesy to members of the police force at the PGH.

The President congratulated the physicians, nurses and personnel of all hospitals for their heroism in attending to the medical needs of the people in spite of shortage of personnel, funds, and accommodations.

The President and his party returned to Malacañang about 12 noon.

THE President today added the respective chairmen of the Senate and the House foreign affairs committees as well as the undersecretary of foreign affairs to the membership of the National Security Council.

The present foreign affairs chairmen are Sen. Francisco A. Delgado of the Senate and Rep. Miguel Cuenco of the House of Representatives.

Besides these three new members, the full membership of the NSC, which is chairmanned by the President, follows:

Vice-President and concurrently Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Garcia, Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., Speaker Jose Laurel, Jr., Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta, Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno, Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevos, Defense Secretary Sotero B. Cabahug, Health Secretary Paulino Garcia, Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, OEC Administrator Alfredo Montelibano, Senate National Defense and Security Committee Chairman Claro M. Recto, House National Defense Committee Chairman Numeriano Babao, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Philippine Veterans Board Chairman Hilario F. Hilario, Rep. Arturo M. Tolentino, and Col. Leoncio S. Tan, Secretary.

THE President received and approved today the report of the joint executive-congressional committee studying the trade nationalization law recommending "to allow the law to stand as it is and to give it a chance to show its effects upon our economy."

The committee advanced these reasons for its stand:

- (1) One year is "too short a time" to pass judgment on the law;
- (2) Public opinion is strongly against its repeal; and
- (3) The Law's constitutionality has been challenged and "it is only proper to give the Supreme Court a chance to pass judgment upon the law."

The bipartisan committee, chairmanned by Secretary of Commerce and Industry Oscar Ledesma, had been created to study the retail trade nationalization law and other nationalization bills pending in congress.

Its members are Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta and OEC Administrator Alfredo Montelibano for the executive; Sen. Gil J. Puyat, Edmundo B. Cea, and Quintin Paredes for the Senate; and Reps. Daniel Z. Romualdez, Arturo M. Tolentino, and Eugenio Perez for the House of Representatives.

The Committee thought it best to allow the law to stand as it is and to give it a chance to show its effects upon our economy. It is agreed that one year is too short a time for us to render judgment as to whether or not its effects have been beneficial. Besides, there is a very strong public opinion against its repeal, in view of which it has been deemed injudicious to amend it in any manner whatsoever. At the time of writing, resolutions from 24 municipal councils have been received strongly opposing its repeal.

Furthermore, the question of the constitutionality of the law has been raised and it is only proper to give the Supreme Court a chance to pass judgment upon the law. Should the Supreme Court decide that it is unconstitutional, then there would be no need for congressional action to amend or repeal the law.

The Committee is also of the belief that action on all the nationalization bills now pending in Congress should be deferred.

THE President signed this day Administrative Order No. 115, "creating a national committee to take charge of the ninth anniversary celebration of the Republic of the Philippines on July 4, 1955." Secretary of Finance Jaime Hernandez is chairman.

The functions of the newly organized committee shall be to formulate plans and to devise ways and means for the appropriate celebration of Independence Day. The administrative order further confers upon the chairman the authority to call meetings of the committee for the purpose of discharging its functions and to create such sub-committees as may be necessary.

Those who compose the committee are the following: Secretary Jaime Hernandez, chairman; Social Welfare Administrator Pacita Madrigal Warns, Undersecretary of National Defense Jose M. Crisol, Assistant Executive Secretary Mariano Yenke, Jr., Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson, UP President Dr. Vidal Tan, Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, PNB President Arsenio Jison, RFC Chairman Eduardo Z. Romualdez, PAUW President Mrs. Belen E. Gutierrez, Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines President Primitivo E. Domingo, and Enrique H. Davila of the Advertising Associates, members; and Vicente Lontok, executive secretary.

THE President ordered today the court-martial of two colonels in the Armed Forces for participation in the so-called "ponchos" scandal and asked Secretary of Justice Pedro Tuason to determine whether Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque (Ret.), former Armed Forces chief of staff, was also liable for court-martial on the theory of command responsibility.

The President sent to the Department of National Defense for immediate implementation the recommendation of pre-trial investigator Navy Commodore Jose V. Andrada, now Malacañang adviser on national defense and security, for the court-martial of Col. Rigoberto J. Atienza, former AFP G-4 chief, and Col. Arturo S. Garcia, AFP quartermaster general.

Two other officers who had been investigated on the transaction, Lt. Col. Agapito Velasco, executive officer of the quartermaster service, and Col. Miguel Velasco, representative of the Department of National Defense in the award committee for Army contracts, were cleared of responsibility. Andrada ruled that neither one took an active part in the transaction.

Commodore Andrada also expressed the opinion that Gen. Duque, who approved the transaction, was accountable "on the theory of command responsibility." The President requested Secretary Tuason to pass an opinion on Andrada's recommendation.

The investigator charged that the officers had been guilty both for awarding the contract to a company which actually had put in a higher bid as well as for "willfully, unlawfully, and intentionally" eliminating from the contract the proviso allowing a refund to the AFP of such taxes, duties, and fees as it was legally exempt from. As a result of these acts, the investigator charged that the government had been defrauded in the amount of P47,296.60, representing the difference between the unit prices offered respectively by the winning company and the Paul Brothers, and that the AFP had been made to stand to lose the amount of P261,537.09 in the form of taxes.

Commodore Andrada recommended that Cols. Atienza and Garcia be charged specifically with violation of Articles of War 95 and 97.

AN American mother whose only son had been killed in action during the war for the liberation of the Philippines was accorded the warm hospitality of a grateful people on her arrival here this morning to fulfill a wish she had cherished for many years to visit the grave of the fallen soldier.

Mrs. Dorothy E. Kley of 5067 Niagara Avenue, San Diego, California, U. S. A., who arrived 6:30 a.m. aboard a freight ship, was met at the pier by a Malacañang representative and taken to the American cemetery in Fort McKinley in a Malacañang car. She laid on the grave of her son a spray of flowers given by the President and Mrs. Magsaysay. Then she was shown around the city and offered the use of the presidential suite at the Manila Hotel.

Glad for having been able to visit the resting place of her son and overwhelmed by the conveniences and facilities placed at her disposal, Mrs. Kley tearfully muttered her thanks for all the courtesy accorded her. Assistant Executive Secretary Mariano Yenke, Jr., who received her at Malacañang on behalf of the President, brushed aside her muffled

thanks, saying that the courtesies were part of the Filipino people's way of showing their gratitude to her for having contributed the life of her only son to the liberation of their country.

"Back in the United States, I had heard a lot about your President being considerate to his people, but I did not expect all this attention to be given to a private citizen like myself," Mrs. Kley said between sobs "I don't know what I could have done without the assistance of your kind President."

Mrs. Kley recounted that her son, Robert, a private in the 152nd Infantry, 38th Division of the U. S. Army, had been killed in action in Olongapo, Zambales, on February 5, 1945. Her husband died after about three weeks after learning of the death of their only son, she said.

Mrs. Kley said she had saved up for about 10 years in order to make the trip to Manila. At Fort McKinley, the American mother, by prior arrangements made by Malacañang, was shown around the cemetery by Commander Edward B. Brier, USN officer in charge of the American Battle Monuments Commission in the Philippines.

Brought to Malacañang by Protocol Officer Manuel Zamora, on her request, so that she could personally thank the President, Mrs. Kley was received by Assistant Executive Secretary Yenko. The President happened to be out on inspection. After being shown around the Palace, she was taken to the presidential suite at the Manila Hotel, where she would spend the night. She is scheduled to return to the United States tomorrow morning aboard the same cargo ship.

May 13.—TENANTS and retailers formed the biggest delegations which saw the President this day.

Following representations made to the President by Col. Telesforo Tenorio, Manila chief of police, in behalf of the 123 members of the Manila Police Department affected by Executive Order No. 111, banning nepotism in government offices, the President relaxed his ban against nepotism by exempting police organizations of 26 chartered cities from the prohibition.

Col. Tenorio informed the President that if the ban is enforced in the MPD, the force will be depleted by no less than 123 members, as there are many officers and detectives in the MPD who have brothers and other relatives in the organization.

The President directed Judge Salvador Esguerra to amend Executive Order No. 111 in order to exempt from the ban members of the police organizations in all chartered cities.

THE Chief Executive also received Mayor Jorge Padilla of Laur, Nueva Ecija, who headed a delegation of tenants from his town. The farmers appealed to the President the decision of a judge granting more than 417 cavans of palay to their landlord.

According to the farmers, the palay was rightfully theirs but was given to the landlord by the judge. The President referred the case to Agricultural Tenancy Commission Chief Col. Guillermo Santos for immediate action. The farmers were also given by the President artesian wells and aid for irrigation systems.

AIR Force surgeons of 11 countries in the Far East who had a recent conference in Baguio City paid a courtesy call on the President. Countries represented in the conference were the Philippines, United States, Japan, Korea, Formosa, Pakistan, Thailand, Australia, Great Britain, and Canada. Accompanying the air surgeons were Col. P. G. Potenciano, the air surgeon of the Philippine Air Force, and Drs. H. Velarde, Sr. and Jr.

COMMERCE Secretary Oscar Ledesma and Reps. Erasmo Cruz of Bulacan and Wenceslao R. Lagumbay of Laguna accompanied the newly-elected officers of the Federation of Filipino Retailers who made representations with the President for the early approval of a bill creating the National Marketing Corporation to take the place of the PRISCO.

The proposed National Marketing Corporation would provide funds for Filipino retailers. Instead of borrowing from the banks, the retailers would borrow from the corporation. Heading the retailers federation delegation were Efren V. Mendoza, president, Dionisio Reyes, vice-president; and Luis Ablaza, vice-president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce. The President sent the retailers to Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr.

JOE Figueras (not the DP candidate for Manila mayor), president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce in San Francisco, California, U. S. A., also called on the Chief Executive and informed him of the plan of the San Francisco California Chamber of Commerce to organize a group which would invite American investors to survey and invest in the Philippines. The President congratulated Figueras for his project.

ANOTHER caller of the President was American writer Eliot Arnold, who is writing a book about air-sea rescue. Arnold was accompanied by Col. Lawrence Horras, commanding officer of the Air-Sea Squadron of Clark Field, Pampanga.

Rep. Leonardo Perez of Nueva Vizcaya led a delegation from his province. They requested aid for their irrigation system. Another delegation which asked for aid for irrigation and waterworks was composed of Mayor Felix Orella and the members of the municipal council of Bani, Pangasinan.

Other callers of the President included Sens. Mariano Jesus Cuenco and Justiniano S. Montano, Rep. Enrique Corpus of Zambales, Director of Prisons Eriberto Misa, and Gen. Guillermo Francisco (Ret.).

May 14.—CONGRESS officers and leaders this morning assured President Magsaysay at a breakfast conference that all major Administration bills would be passed.

The Congress officers and leaders said that both Chambers of Congress have been working full blast studying administration bills and approving them as fast as could be done. They expressed the hope that at the pace Congress was acting on the bills there might not be any need for holding the special session as originally contemplated.

President Magsaysay congratulated the officers, leaders, and members of both Chambers of Congress for their speedy action on the Administration bills which are designed to implement the Government's objectives of rural improvement and strengthening the national economy. The Chief Executive also agreed that at the rate action was speeded on the bills it might not be imperative to call a special session.

Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., said that the Senate was cooperating in the Administration's program and that it was doing its best to avoid the holding of a special session.

On the part of the House of Representatives, in the absence of Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., who could not attend the conference owing to a morning speaking engagement, House Majority Floor Leader Arturo M. Tolentino said that the House was endeavoring to finish action on all administration bills by Monday (May 16), in order that the Senate would have ample time to act on them before Congress adjourns on May 19.

Among the major administration bills to which congressional support had been pledged were those falling under the bond issue with a total allotment of P270 million, excluding the public works appropriation; bills appropriating P41 million from the general fund, including the P33 million counterpart funds; the land tenure bill as amended; the agrarian court bill; the national marketing corporation bill which automatically dissolves the PRISCO; and the home financing bill.

With regard to the bills under the bond issue, it was agreed that Sen. Cipriano Primicias and Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno would confer sometime today to discuss the consolidation of all the bond issue bills into one omnibus bill.

The breakfast conference had been called to review action taken so far by Congress on all the administration bills and to coordinate efforts to insure approval of the measures.

Those present at the conference beside the President, who presided over the meet, were Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., Senate Majority Floor Leader Cipriano Primicias, Speaker Pro-tempore Daniel Romualdez, and House Majority Floor Leader Arturo M. Tolentino. Also present were Legislative Secretary Jose Nable and Asst. Press Secretary Guillermo V. Sison. The breakfast conference began at 8 a.m. and lasted up to 9:30 a.m.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning approved the detail of Lt. Col. Luis D. Martinez, commanding officer of the V. Luna General Hospital, to attend a two-day medical conference in New York City, U. S. A., at the expense of the government.

Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug, in recommending the detail of Col. Martinez, informed the President that the Armed Forces would stand to gain in increased international prestige without having to spend for it. Besides, Secretary Cabahug said, Col. Martinez would have the opportunity to visit Army and Navy hospitals in New York City and acquaint himself with modern trends in medical care of military personnel.

The conference will be held by the New York Academy of Sciences at New York City from May 24 to 25. The Pfizer Laboratories, Inc., the sponsoring agency, had agreed to pay for the traveling and extra living expenses of the delegates.

THE President today sent his condolence on the occasion of the death of Gene Symonds, *United Press* manager for Southeast Asia. Symonds died in Singapore, Malaya. The text of the President's condolence follows:

"I am shocked to know of Gene Symonds' death, especially of the circumstances that caused it. Like a soldier who fell on the battlelines, this intrepid correspondent of the *United Press* died while covering his beat. Knowing him as a friend and as a newspaperman, I personally mourn his death which set another high mark in the silent heroism of the working press. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family and to the *United Press* on the untimely death of an able journalist."

May 15.—HARD hit by a severe cold, the President stayed in bed the whole day today, trying to shake off his nasal ailment.

His physicians believed the Chief Executive contacted the ailment because of sudden changes of temperature he experienced while shuttling between Baguio City and Manila. Lately, the President used to leave Manila late in the afternoon, sleep in Baguio City, and return to the Palace the following morning.

May 16.—STILL running a fever due to a severe cold, the President left Malacañang early this morning and went to the V. Luna General Hospital, where he stayed the whole day. He left the Palace at 7:30 a.m. with his aide, Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo, to avoid callers who sneak through the back doors and pester the Chief Executive with requests and political intrigues.

The President had cancelled all appointments with callers in order to have another day's rest.

Upon his return to the Palace at 8 o'clock in the evening, the President conferred with Legislative Secretary Jose C. Nable on administration bills pending in Congress. He signed a letter certifying to the urgency of 12 more "must" bills in an effort to spur legislative action on them before Congress adjourns its regular session on Thursday, May 19.

May 17.—FEELING better after two days' bout with severe cold and fever, the President felt ready to receive an unusually big number of callers this day.

It was estimated that more than 500 callers trooped into the President's executive office to plague the Chief Executive with problems ranging from petty politics to financial aid. Most of the callers were provincial and municipal officials who came with delegations to seek financial aid for pet projects in their respective localities.

Rep. Ramon Mitra accompanied a delegation from Mountain Province headed by Gov. Dado Dangwa. The group requested the reservation of a settlement site for families displaced by the construction of the multi-million peso Ambuklao hydroelectric plant.

Rep. Ferdinand Marcos accompanied a delegation from Dingras, Ilocos Norte, headed by Mayor Andres V. Valencia. This group sought funds for the expropriation of a tract of land for a provincial high school site in their municipality.

Rep. Manuel Enverga brought in a delegation from Sariaya and Sampaloc, Quezon, headed by Mayors Andres S. Remo and Paterno Abcede, which asked for financial assistance for puericulture centers and irrigation projects.

A delegation from Padre Burgos, Quezon, headed by Mayor Bienvenido Marquez was brought in by Rep. Leon Guinto, Jr. The group called to thank the President for the waterworks being installed in their town through the help of the National Government.

A delegation from Bigaa, Bulacan, led by Mayor Miguel Galvez requested Liberty wells and prefab school buildings for the barrios. The delegation was accompanied by Rep. Erasmo Cruz.

A large group of public school teachers and nurses headed by Mrs. Severa Racho, president of the Philippine Public School Teachers-Nurses' Association, called to pay their respects following their recent two conventions in Manila. During the call, the group also pressed for the early appropriation of the P17 million required for the readjustment of teachers salaries.

A group of musicians and music lovers requested the President to certify to the urgency of a bill pending in Congress providing for the creation of a public corporation of music and the establishment of a national theater. The group included Jovita Fuentes, Julio Esteban Anguita, Evelina Kalaw, Eliseo Pajaro, Julio Gonzales Anguita, and Mesdames Reseller T. Lim and Jose Roy.

Officers of the Federacion Obrera de la Industria Tabaquera sought the President's help in obtaining assurances from managements of tobacco factories that there would be no lay-off of workers as a result of the projected mechanization of their factories. The officers were accompanied by Rep. Angel M. Castaño of Manila.

Other delegations were those from Sta. Cruz, Laguna, accompanied by Rep. Wenceslao Lagumbay, from Ormoc City accompanied by Rep. Domingo Veloso, from Bulacan headed by Gov. Alejo Santos, and from Rizal headed by Acting Gov. Amado Gervacio.

The Chief Executive received callers until 12:15 p.m. Individual callers included Sen. Francisco A. Delgado, PHHC Manager Vicente Orosa, Economic Coordination Administrator Alfredo Montelibano, and Reps. Domocao Alonto of Lanao, Vicente Peralta of Sorsogon, Carlos Hilado of Iloilo, Conrado Morente of Mindoro Oriental, and Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz.

THE President today removed from office Honorato N. Bautista as first assistant provincial fiscal of Lanao for immorality, willful refusal to pay just debts, abuse of authority, partiality, gross ignorance of law, and vindictive disposition.

The President removed Bautista from office effective as of the date of his preventive suspension, July 30, 1954, with prejudice to reinstatement in the government service in any capacity.

Acting on the recommendation of Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, the President observed that Bautista was "guilty of immorality and highly reprehensible conduct both as a public official and as a private citizen necessarily reflecting adversely on his fitness to remain in the public service, particularly in the prosecuting arm of the government."

The administrative charges were filed against Bautista for supposed irregularities committed by him as first assistant provincial fiscal of Lanao and while on special detail with the office of the city attorney of Davao City. The charges were looked into by special investigators of the Department of Justice who recommended the removal of the Lanao assistant fiscal.

In the administrative order removing Bautista from office, the President directed that the records pertaining to the alleged second marriage of Bautista be returned to the Department of Justice for the institution of such criminal action against the dismissed fiscals as the facts and circumstances may warrant.

Bautista was found to have contracted a second marriage or, in any event, to have illicit relations with another woman not his wife, of which relationship two children were born whom he refused to support later.

THE President exonerated today Misamis Occidental Gov. Gedeon G. Quijano and suspended from office Misamis Oriental Gov. Paciencia G. Ysalina for one year.

In Administrative Order No. 118, the President exonerated Gov. Quijano from the charge of "misconduct in office" on eight counts; namely, (1) toleration of gambling, (2) technical malversation as defined by Art. 220 of the Revised Penal Code, (3) malversation of public property, (4) illegal disbursement of governor's discretionary fund, (5) terrorism, (6) nepotism, (7) abuse of authority, and (8) utilizing the services of provincial prisoners.

In Administrative Order No. 117, the President suspended Gov. Ysalina, who had been found guilty of three out of eight administrative charges filed against him. The President ordered the suspension of Ysalina for one year effective August 17, 1954, the date when the respondent governor was placed under preventive suspension in connection with his case. He was further warned that a repetition of any of his offenses would be dealt with more severely.

The presidential action in each case was based on the recommendations of special investigators of the Office of the President who had probed the complaints.

In connection with the fifth count against Quijano, the complainants claimed that the respondent governor had committed an act of terrorism for having issued a pre-election order, dated November 3, 1953, requiring the temporary surrender of all privately-owned firearms by Nacionalista partisans only. The President found that this imputation was entirely without merit. It was disclosed by the evidence that said order was decreed by the respondent solely to insure clean and peaceful elections and that it was intended not only for the Nacionalistas but for all firearm holders, regardless of political or party affiliations.

All the eight counts against Gov. Quijano filed by Casiano U. Laput and others on January 21, 1954, had been found lacking in merit or were unfounded, or the complainants had failed to submit evidence. Thus, the President said in his administrative order: "In view of the foregoing consideration and as recommended by the special investigator, the respondent is hereby exonerated from the aforementioned charges against him."

Gov. Ysalina was suspended because he had been found guilty of the following charges:

- (1) Appointing two persons as councilors of Tagoluan, Misamis Oriental, in violation of law;
- (2) Causing the unnecessary detour of the old provincial road leading to the municipal district of Lumbia in order to make it traverse his own land wherein he had his residential house; and
- (3) Tolerating the gross neglect of duty of the provincial secretary who failed to submit to the provincial board in its regular and special sessions for appropriate action, the ordinances, resolutions, and other proceedings of the municipal councils.

IN the afternoon, the President conferred with Legislative Secretary Jose C. Nable on more urgent bills to be certified to Congress.

Those certified to by the President were bills:

- (1) Establishing an emergency hospital in Carigara, Leyte;
- (2) Appropriating P300,000 to construct a leprosy research laboratory and training center;
- (3) Authorizing the Sweepstakes Office to hold two special horse races annually for six years, the net proceeds of which will be exclusively for the establishment, construction, and maintenance of health, summer and sea resorts, and recreation centers throughout the Philippines for vacationing school children and laborers and their families;
- (4) Providing for the establishment of a national indigent children's hospital in Quezon City; and
- (5) Providing for the establishment of a school of fisheries in Ambulong, Batangas.

The President also conferred with Assistant Executive Secretary Enrique C. Quema on routine matters.

May 18.—THE President had a breakfast conference this morning with the leaders of Congress on pending "must" administration measures. Present at the conference which lasted from 8 to 9: 30 a.m. were Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr.; Senate Majority Floor Leader Cipriano Primicias, and Senators Justiniano S. Montano, Jose C. Locsin, Edmundo B. Cea, Fernando Lopez, and Jose P. Laurel; Speaker Jose Laurel, Jr., Speaker Protempore Daniel Z. Romualdez, House Majority Floor Leader Arturo M. Tolentino; and Reps. Carlos Hilado of Negros Occidental, Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz, Lorenzo Teves of Negros Oriental, Reynaldo P. Honrado of Surigao, and Eulogio Rodriguez, Jr., of Rizal. Also present were Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, Assistant Executive Secretary Enrique C. Quema, Legislative Secretary Jose C. Nable, Prof. Enrique Fernando, and Press Secretary J. V. Cruz.

THE President after the breakfast conference, submitted to the Commission on Appointments the nominations of Venancio Trinidad as director of public schools, Dr. Gaudencio Garcia as member of the Commission on Elections, and Eliseo de Veyra as provincial fiscal of Leyte.

The President also certified to the urgency of the bill appropriating P17 million for teachers' salary adjustment after the breakfast conference.

The conference pledged Senate approval of the bill, which already had passed the House of Representatives. It was agreed, however, that the final text of the legislation should carry a proviso to the effect that the money will be appropriated only upon certification of availability of funds by the commissioner of the budget, the secretary of finance, and the auditor general.

Both Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., and Speaker Jose Laurel, Jr., gave assurances that the Congress would be able to complete action on vital administration measures by adjournment on Thursday, May 19. They said this would make a special session unnecessary.

AFTER the conference, the President retired to his study, where he received several callers; namely, Reps. Domocao Alonto of Lanao, Ramon Tabiana of Iloilo, and Jacobo Gonzales of Laguna.

A large delegation from the Philippine Association of Public School Superintendents called at Malacañang to pay their respects following their six-day annual convention recently held in Baguio City.

Accompanied by Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., the delegation submitted a resolution unanimously passed at their convention renewing their pledge of loyalty to the Administration and support to its program of rural improvement.

With Cavite Superintendent Emiliano C. Ramirez, association president, as spokesman, the delegation informed the President that among other resolutions approved at their convention was to give more emphasis to vocational education in the public schools as a way of solving the perennial unemployment problem which, they said, threatened the economic security of the country.

The delegation also thanked the President for his active interest in the implementation of the proposed readjustment of salaries for public school superintendents and teachers.

The Cabinet with President Magsaysay presiding approved today the report and recommendations of a presidential committee to study the future of Intramuros which urged among other things that Republic Act No. 597 be amended in order to allow any type of architecture in that district.

The committee said the provision in this act requiring that all buildings in Intramuros should conform strictly to the Spanish type of architecture had a "retarding effect" on its reconstruction.

The committee also recommended that:

1. Intramuros should be zoned for selective business uses with residential buildings allowed;
2. All the streets should be rehabilitated immediately and utilities (water, sewer, and light) repaired or installed to accelerate development; and
3. The National Government should set aside, as soon as possible, an initial sum of P50,000 for general cleaning of the area and for planting shade trees, ornamental shrubs, and vines.

The committee created by Administrative Order No. 82 in November last year was headed by Director of Planning Anselmo T. Alquinto of the National Planning Commission. It included Director of Coast and Geodetic Survey Andres O. Hizon and Architects Juan Nakpil, Oscar Arellano, and Carlos da Silva as members.

The Cabinet also approved the Philippine delegation to the International Sugar Council meeting in London, Great Britain, starting June 1. Philippine Ambassador to Britain Leon Ma. Guerrero will be chairman of the Philippine group with Salvador B. Oliveros, technical consultant of the Philippine Sugar Institute, as alternate. Members will be former Ambassador Jose B. Romero, now Philippine Sugar Association representative in the U. S., and Steward Jamieson, PSA secretary-treasurer, Oliveros' expenses will be defrayed by the PHILSUGEN while those of Romero and Jamieson will be borne by the PSA.

The Cabinet during its meeting, which lasted from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., also approved:

1. A recommendation of Dr. Co Tui of New York City, U. S. A., well-known American physician married to a Filipina, for the creation of a local isotope committee to obtain and supervise the local use of radio-isotopes manufactured by the Atomic Energy Commission for research work on cancer and other chronic diseases. According to Health Secretary Paulino Garcia, Dr. Co Tui had offered to help the Philippines avail itself of the opportunity to obtain isotopes, provided their local use was under government auspices and subject to the approval of the AEC. For this project, Garcia said, it is necessary to create a local isotopes committee. The Health Secretary said he will nominate members of the committee soon.
2. The transfer of the offices of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation from their present site at the corner of P. Burgos Avenue and Conception Street to another site, probably in Quezon City. The present offices and site of

the PHHC are being purchased by the Manila City Government for its own use. The Cabinet directed that the money paid for this purchase be used for the PHHC new offices.

AFTER the Cabinet meeting, the President left the Palace for an undisclosed place. He was accompanied by Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo. He returned to Malacañang at 8 o'clock in the evening.

THE President this evening named Silvero Blaquera as Collector of Internal Revenue, vice J. Antonio Araneta, who has resigned.

It was learned that Araneta had insisted on his resignation submitted last week for "reasons of health."

Before his appointment as collector of internal revenue, Blaquera was the deputy collector.

May 19.—THIS morning, the President had breakfast with Ernest K. Lindley, Washington bureau chief of the *Newsweek* magazine. With Lindley were Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez and Press Secretary J. V. Cruz.

AFTER his breakfast with the visiting *Newsweek* man, the President received from U. S. Ambassador Homer Ferguson the formula for making the Salk anti-folio vaccine and assured him that Filipino doctors would make use of the vaccine to cure folio victims in the country.

U. S. Ambassador Homer Ferguson handed the formula, a copy of the report by the Poliomyelitis Vaccine Evaluation Center, and the report of Dr. Salk on "the performance and prospects for vaccination against polio" to the President at a ceremony held in the study room of Malacañang.

Before handing over the formula, Ambassador Ferguson remarked that the giving of the formula to other countries is an example of what could be achieved from the free exchange of ideas among people. The Ambassador presented the formula on behalf of United States President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

After the formula was handed to him, the President presented it to Secretary of Health Paulino Garcia, who was present, together with some leading Filipino doctors.

With Ambassador Ferguson were U. S. Embassy Counselor Charles Burrows and John Nally of the USIS. The doctors with Secretary Paulino Garcia were Hospitals Director Tranquilino Elicaño, Philippine Medical Association President Geraldo del Castillo, Manila Medical Association President Antonio Samia, Philippine Federation of Private Medical Practitioners President Ramon Atienza, Jr., and Dr. Wilfredo de Leon of San Lazaro Hospital.

THE President administered the oath of office to Judge Modesto Castillo as presiding judge of the Court of Industrial Relations in a ceremony held at Malacañang this morning.

Present were large delegations of municipal officials from Tanauan, Batangas, headed by Mayor Pedro Gonzales, and from Taal, same province, headed by Mayor Ignacio Ylagan. The delegations were accompanied by Rep. Numeriano Babao.

EARLIER this morning, the President received callers at his private study. About 10 a.m., he went up to his executive office, where he received more callers until 12:30 p.m.

A delegation from the Kamuning Women's Club requested financial assistance for the construction of a community nursery for working mothers in Project 3, Quirino District, Quezon City. Headed by Mrs. Cecilia San Agustin, the group was accompanied to Malacañang by Mayor Norberto S. Amoranto.

Mayor Constantino Verceles headed a large delegation from Agoo, La Union, which sought the release of P14,000 from his town's frozen pre-war deposits with the PNB for the installation of a water system in his municipality. The delegation was accompanied by Rep. Manuel T. Cases of La Union.

Delegates to the five-day professionals seminar currently being held at the U. P. College of Education in Diliman, Quezon City, called to pay their respects and to reiterate their support to the Administration's rural improvement program. Composed of school superintendents and teachers, agriculturists, businessmen, and professionals from all over the country, the group was headed by Dean Isidoro Panlasigui, director of the seminar.

Officers of the Philippine Book Lovers Society called to present the President with a collection of old books and periodicals written on the Philippines by Rizal and foreign authors during the Spanish regime. This group included Dr. Encarnacion Alzona, Libraries Director Luis Montilla, Museum Director Eduardo Quisumbing, and Prof. Michael Goldenberg.

Kenneth L. Dollarhide, vice-president and general manager of the Reynolds Philippine Corporation, invited the President to inaugurate their newly completed P6 million factory on Highway 54 for the manufacture of aluminum sheets and other building materials. Dollarhide was accompanied by Peter J. Volpe, another Reynolds executive, and Emilio Gonzalez Lao.

A delegation from the Landowners and Tenants Association in Pilar, Bataan, called to thank the President for the recent release of funds for the communal irrigation system in their municipality.

Rep. Jose O. Corpuz of Nueva Ecija, sought the investigation and suspension of the acting fiscal in his province owing to serious charges filed against the latter.

Other callers included Govs. Dominador Chipeco of Laguna and Juan Alberto of Catanduanes; Harry Lee, vice-president of the J. Walter Samson, the world's largest advertising agency; Modesto Farolan; and Jesus V. Merrit of the PHHC.

IN the afternoon, the President left for an undisclosed place. He returned early in the evening and waited for the arrival of a joint congressional committee which will report to him on the adjournment of Congress.

While haggard representatives and senators rammed pending bills through the legislative mill until 12 o'clock midnight, the President stayed awake with his advisers in the Palace, waiting for the report of the joint congressional committee on the adjournment of the regular session.

May 20.—THIS morning, the President presented Miss Helen Keller, the deaf and blind genius, with the *Order of the Golden Heart*, "in recognition of her courage and fortitude to rise above her great physical handicaps."

In presenting the highest civilian award to Miss Keller, the President expressed the hope that she had "kindled the hopes of thousands of people the world over who are similarly afflicted."

Deeply impressed by Miss Keller's ability to understand, write, and converse, in spite of her physical disabilities, the President said it was amazing "how she was able to overcome her defects.

In the citation the President said that Miss Keller "has become an inspiration to those who, though only belonging to the world of touch, have come to have faith in the indomitability of the human spirit, who have come to believe that physical misfortunes can be stepping stones to triumph; and that the darkness of one's world caused by blindness is no cause for despair but a challenge to the human will."

Miss Gloria Cruz, a local blind girl who has also been successfully overcoming her handicap, cried on the shoulder of Miss Keller. Miss Cruz said that Miss Keller had always been her inspiration. Miss Keller kissed Miss Cruz on the cheek and advised her to keep on.

After receiving the award from the President, who was assisted by U. S. Ambassador Homer Ferguson, Miss Keller thanked the Chief Executive and the Filipino people for "this beautiful symbol of your golden heart." She expressed the hope that she would be able to keep on with her work so that the deaf and the blind may have a chance in life."

Miss Keller arrived at Malacañang at 9:10 a.m. with her secretary, Miss Polly Thompson, and Social Welfare Administrator Pacita Madrigal Warns and was conducted by Malacañang Protocol Officer Manuel Zamora to the register book. She wrote her name with her right hand and in printed letters.

After signing her name in the register book, Miss Keller was taken to the music room, where she conversed for five minutes with Ambassador and Mrs. Ferguson.

Accompanied by Ambassador Ferguson, Miss Keller was received by the President at the study room. He met them at the door with extended hands. Upon meeting the Chief Executive, Miss Keller paid tribute to him and the “noble heart” of the Filipino people, who, she said, “you are serving greatly.”

From the study room, the President led Miss Keller and the guests to the ceremonial hall where the presentation ceremony was held. The ceremony started when the President formally and officially welcomed Miss Keller to the Philippines and informed her of the award. The citation was read by presidential aide, Maj. Pat Garcia, and was conveyed to Miss Keller by Miss Thompson through touch language.

AFTER receiving Miss Keller, the President also received the newly-elected officers and members of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines who were accompanied by OEC Administrator Alfredo Montelibano and CB Governor Miguel Cuaderno.

The Chief Executive inducted the officers of the association and assured them that, if a special session was held, he would certify to the urgency of a bill giving loans to small farmers. The President was informed by the rural bankers that the bill was among those not acted upon by Congress in its regular session.

Inducted into office by the President were Alfredo Montelibano, president; Jose Rodriguez, vice-president for Luzon; Florencio Garcia, vice-president for the Visayas; Ramon Saura, vice-president for Mindanao; and Felix Lumcaoco, secretary-treasurer.

THE President this morning released funds and issued directives to various government officials for the relief of the Naga City fire victims.

Upon representation of Camarines Sur Gov. Juan F. Trivinio and Naga City Mayor Monico Imperial, President Magsaysay:

- (1) Released P90,000 for the purchase of three new fire engines;
- (2) Instructed the RFC to make available real estate to fire victims for the construction and rehabilitation of their homes;
- (3) Ordered the expediting of the release of P50,000 aid for schools fund;
- (4) Ordered the release of public works funds, especially for the construction of water works; and
- (5) Directed the ACCFA to extend crop loans to the ramie planters of Camarines Sur.

IN the afternoon, the President, before leaving for the airport to take the plane for Baguio, met with a delegation of strikers of the Philippine-American Cigar and Cigarette Company, headed by Antonio Salazar and Antonio Policarpio.

The President told the delegation that he would meet the representatives of the labor union on strike, together with the Bureau of Internal Revenue officials, Department of Labor officials, and the management of the Philippine-American Cigar and Cigarette Company on Monday morning, to hear the complaints aired by the strikers and to thresh out their dispute.

The President accompanied by his aide, Maj. Pat Garcia, and his son, Ramon Jr., went to Baguio to join his family for a week-end rest.

May 21.—EARLY this morning, the President received 13 U. S. generals at the Guest House in Baguio City. They talked about civil defense, state police, and psychological warfare matters.

The visiting American generals are here for a brief stop-over in their tour of the Far East. They represent the National Guards air and army adjutant generals section in the United States.

During the conference, the President explained to the generals how the Government had waged a continuing campaign against communism and how it solved this problem by its “all-out force” policy. The conference lasted from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The American generals who saw the President were Major Generals Raymond H. Fleming, Louisiana; William P. Wilson, Mississippi; Earle M. Jones, California; James A. May, New Jersey; Joseph E. Nelson, Minnesota; Fred C. Tandy, Iowa; William P. Partlow, Jr., Alabama; and Lilburn H. Stevens, Washington; Brig. Generals Spencer H. Mitchel, Montana; Ralph J. Olson, Wisconsin; J. W. E. Nickell, Kansas; Maxwell E. Rich, Utah; and Jesse R. Lindsay, Kentucky. Another member of the group, Maj. Gen. Kerrie L. Berry of Texas, was not able to go to Baguio City.

AFTER his conference with the generals, the President drove around Baguio City to see public works projects in the city. He was accompanied by his aide, Maj. Pat Garcia.

Past 4 o’clock in the afternoon, the President took off from the Loakan airport and arrived in Manila at 5:10 p.m.

UPON his arrival in Malacañang, the President conferred with his advisers on the controversial land tenure bill. He discussed the bill with Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez and Prof. Enrique M. Fernando, Malacañang legal adviser.

The President decided to invite Congress leaders to another breakfast conference to fix the date and agenda of a special session. It was learned the President will insist on calling a special session, despite opposition from several solons who said the session was unnecessary.

The President is bent on getting approval of the controversial land tenure bill, which had been criticized in several quarters. A number of solons had asked for the “shelving” of the bill for further study.

IN the evening, Malacañang announced that the President would be neutral in the selection of the Nacionalista candidate for mayor and vice-mayor for the City of Manila. Press Secretary J. V. Cruz said that the President would adopt a “hands off” policy in the convention to be held tomorrow to select the Nacionalista Party candidate for Manila mayor.

May 22.—AFTER hearing mass at the Palace chapel with Maj. Pat Garcia, the President invited the Malacañang chaplain, Lt. Col. Nicolas Ortega, to join him at breakfast.

After breakfast, the President went over pending state papers. Reading a report that the crimes charged against several Army officers may prescribe next month, he called up Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff, to speed up the court martial of several ranking Army officers involved in the “poncho” and the “post exchange” scandals.

The President ordered recently the court martial of Col. Carmelo Z. Barbero and Cdr. Santiago Nuval, PN, in connection with the illegal importation of PX goods from Japan. He also ordered the trial before a military tribunal of Cols. Rigoberto Atienza and Arturo Garcia for alleged participation in the “Poncho” transaction.

At the same time, the President asked Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason to rush his report on the liability, if any, of Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque, (Ret.), former AFP chief of staff, in connection with the “poncho” scandal.

Malacañang also announced that the President has already received the report of the committee which investigated the contract for Army supplies amounting to P802,400 from Japan. The President is still going over the report of the committee headed by Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol.

After lunch, the President took a short nap and then continued working on pending state papers.

IN the afternoon, the President received Press Secretary J. V. Cruz. The President set a breakfast conference with Congress leaders on Wednesday, May 25, to fix the opening date and agenda for a special session.

AT 6:25 p.m., the President motored to the Pre-Cathedral to attend the church rites of the silver wedding anniversary of Sen. and Mrs. Cipriano Primicias. He congratulated the couple for having stood the union for 25 years.

Returning to the Palace in the evening, the President proceeded to the Malacañang Park social hall and attended a party of the Union Zambaleño headed by Angel de la Paz.

May 23.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning sent congratulatory messages to Mayor Arsenio Lacson and to Jesus Marcos Rocas, Nacionalista nominees for mayor and vice-mayor, respectively, and pledged to them his active support in the coming November elections.

THE text of the President's messages follow:

“ARSENIO
M EARNSHAW MANILA

LACSON

CONGRATULATIONS AM SO HAPPY OVER YOUR VICTORY STOP EYE LOOK FORWARD TO
FIGHTING AND WINNING WITH YOU THE GOOD FIGHT FOR MAINTENANCE CLEAN HONEST AND
RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IN MANILA

MAGSAYSAY”

“JESUS
CITY HALL

ROCES

CONGRATULATIONS ARSENIO AND YOU WILL MAKE WINNING TEAM IN COMING FIGHT TO
UPHOLD HONEST AND RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT IN MANILA STOP COUNT ON MY FULL
SUPPORT

MAGSAYSAY”

The President this morning received callers continuously from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., first at his study and then at his executive office.

He administered the oath of office to officials of the newly created municipality of Llanera, Nueva Ecija, in the presence of a large delegation from the new town headed by Rep. Celestino Juan. Those inducted were Emilio Lagasca, mayor; Ramon Balintag, vice-mayor; and Benigno Martin, Macario Agulan, Eufrociño Felix, and Concejo Arocene as councilors.

Thai Minister Chitti Sucharitakul called to present a check for 200,000 baht (P19,281.42) donated by Prime Minister and Lady Phibul Songgram of Thailand for the fire sufferers in Bacolod City.

Australian Minister and Mrs. George Dunbar Moore called to say goodbye prior to their return to their homeland after completing a five-year tour of duty in the Philippines. Minister Moore informed the President that Lionel

Philipps, second secretary at the Australian legation in Manila, will take charge of the office until his successor was appointed.

Provincial Board Member Maximino Bello of Ilocos Sur submitted a petition seeking the reinstatement of Vigan Mayor Lorenzo Formoso, who had been suspended about a month ago pending investigation of serious charges filed against him by Rep. Floro S. Crisologo.

Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevosio accompanied labor and management representatives of the strike-bound Philippine-American Tobacco Corporation who each aired their complaints before the Chief Executive. At the close of the call, the President received assurances from both sides that the month-old strike would be settled soon.

THE President this noon received a large delegation of U. S. army officers currently enrolled in the National War College in Washington, D. C, who called to pay their respects following their recent arrival in Manila in the course of an observation tour in the Far East.

Accompanied by U. S. Ambassador Homer Ferguson, the delegation informed the President they had heard so much about his successful campaign against Communism in this country and that they had looked forward to meeting him in person. Col. Boyd Hubbard acted as spokesman for the group.

On the request of members of the delegation, the President spent some 20 minutes telling them of the mass arrest of the politburo in Manila and the unorthodox methods employed by the government forces to rid the country of dissident elements.

ABOUT 1 p.m., the President went down to the Malacañang grounds to meet a large delegation composed of some 1,000 men and women from Imus, Cavite, who vehemently protested against the bill passed at the last congressional session converting their town into a city. The delegation was headed by Gov. Dominador Camerino and Imus Mayor Dominador Ilano.

Other delegations were those from Zambales headed by Rep. Enrique Corpus; from Mamburao, Misamis Oriental, headed by Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez; and from Candon, Ilocos Sur, headed by Rep. Ricardo Gacula and Mayor Esteban Ramos.

Individual callers received by the President this morning included Sens. Justiniano S. Montano and Macario Peralta, Jr.; Reps. Ricardo Ladrido of Iloilo, Domingo Veloso of Leyte, Conrado Morente of Mindoro Oriental, Rogaciano Mercado of Bulacan, Panfilo Manguera of Marinduque, Vicente L. Peralta of Sorsogon, and Florencio Moreno of Romblon; Govs. Juan Alberto of Catanduanes and Wilfrido Panotes of Camarines Norte; and PHHC Manager Vicente Orosa, ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo, and Deputy Collector Silverio Blaquera of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

IN the afternoon, the President received U. S. Ambassador to South Vietnam G. Frederick Reinhardt, who paid a courtesy call on the Chief Executive. The American Ambassador was on his way to assume his post in South Vietnam.

Ambassador Reinhardt was accompanied to Malacañang by Ambassador Homer Ferguson and Charles R. Burrows, counselor in the U. S. Embassy.

The President also received Alfredo Lozano, local impresario, who presented the President with the special commemorative recording of the Symphony of the Air in connection with its forthcoming Far East tour. Lozano was accompanied by Press Secretary J. V. Cruz.

Later, the President received Mrs. Denny Griswold-Sullivan, public relations consultant and editor of *Public Relations News* in New York City, U. S. A. Mrs. Sullivan was accompanied by her husband, J. Langdon Sullivan of the J. Langdon Sullivan and Company investment management.

Together with the Sullivans were J. P. Roxas, public relations man of CALTEX, Carmelo Mendoza, Lorenzo Sevilla, and Dr. J. Mathay.

IN the evening the President conferred with Assistant Executive Secretary Mariano A. Yenko, Jr., Judge Salvador Esguerra, and Prof. Enrique M. Fernando on routine matters pertaining to the Executive Department.

May 24.—THE PRESIDENT had breakfast with Sen. Claro M. Recto, Don Andres Soriano, Manuel Nieto, Jr., Bernard Gaberman, Anthony McCleod, and Arturo Fanlo.

After the breakfast, the President proceeded to the Executive Office, where he received callers, among whom were members of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement who reported on the progress of the San Luis Resettlement project. Those who called on the President were Dean Conrado Benitez, chairman, Ric Labez, Dr. Francisco Dungo, Dr. Godofredo Ebron, Maj. Augusto Roa, and Capt. Martin P. Reyes.

The President was satisfied with the progress report on the San Luis resettlement project, but he suggested to the PRRM members to build a hospital on the side of the San Luis River, where the settlers have been given farms.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning received local FOA Chief Col. Harry Brenn, who is leaving tonight for a four-week stay in Washington, D. C., where he will confer with top-ranking FOA officials. Col. Brenn stayed with the President for about five minutes.

During his brief visit, Col. Brenn was informed by the President that the Philippine was in need of more materials and equipment for the completion of the irrigation projects being undertaken by the Government.

After receiving Col. Brenn, the President met a large delegation from barrio San Nicolas, Taal, Batangas, composed mostly of *teniente del barrios* who protested the projected conversion of barrio San Nicolas into a municipality.

A bill had been filed by Rep. Apolinario Apacible converting San Nicolas and some barrios surrounding it into a municipality. The residents of the barrios who called on the President said that they did not wish their barrios to be included in the conversion of San Nicolas into a town. The President asked them to give him time to study the case before he hands down a decision.

Rep. Felipe Garduque of Cagayan accompanied an English businessman who presented the President with samples of his anti-termite wallboard product made from *bagasi*. The Chief Executive encouraged the businessman, M. Green, to put up a factory for his product.

Rep. Jose T. Cajulis of Cavite and Mayor Santos Ambagan of Amadeo, Cavite, asked the President for aid for the completion of a water works project in the municipality. Another caller of the Chief Executive who requested aid for waterworks and irrigation was Mayor Eliseo Wakan of Tagum, Davao, who is also the president of the Davao Mayors League.

Other callers of the President included Reps. Roseller Lim of Zamboanga del Sur, Domingo Veloso of Leyte, and Ramon Tabiana of Iloilo; and Juan Alberto of Catanduanes; and Mayor Jose Roño of Calbayog City.

IN the afternoon, the President left the Palace for an undisclosed place. He returned to Malacañang late in the evening.

THE President in the evening directed: (1) Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of Staff, to initiate court-martial proceedings against Col. Manuel Q. Salientes, G-4 chief, and Col. Arturo Garcia, quartermaster general; and (2) Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug to reassign and impose an administrative reprimand on Maj. Candido B. Gavino and LCdr. Mariano G. de Leon, PN, (assistants of Col. Salientes), and Capt. Antonio L. Edralin (assistant of Col. Garcia).

These steps were the result of the investigation conducted on the negotiated purchase of Army supplies from Japan between the AFP and the Galvez and Co.

The President took this action upon receipt of the recommendations submitted to him this afternoon by the presidential committee which had investigated the Army negotiated purchase. The recommendations were embodied in a voluminous report consisting of some 300 pages, submitted by the committee chairman, Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol. The report was concurred in unanimously by the other four committee members: Brig. Gen. Eulogio Balao, Col. Sixto J. Charles, Col. Diosdado L. Rodriguez, and Lt. Col. Lorenzo Camins.

Col. Salientes was recommended for court-martial for violating Articles of War 96 and 97, and Col. Garcia, for violating Article of War 97. The administrative reprimand against Maj. Gavino, LCdr. de Leon, and Capt. Edralin was due to their failure to carry out properly their assigned duties and protect the best interest of the military service.

The Crisol committee also informed the President that neither Sen. Justiniano S. Montano nor Galvez and Co. was subject of the investigation which had been carried out by the presidential committee.

Undersecretary Crisol further told the President that insofar as the investigating committee was concerned, Sen. Montano did nothing illegal or immoral in connection with the transaction. The Solon's services to the company, it was said, had been rendered to facilitate the transaction which otherwise would have resulted in delay prejudicial to the contracting company.

The committee further charged Col. Salientes had also committed disloyalty in office when he intentionally withheld from the knowledge of the chief of staff vital information which, had it been revealed to the chief of staff beforehand, would have materially affected the latter's decision on the offer of Galvez and Co. Col. Salientes may also be held liable for official disloyalty when he gave the chief of staff false information favorable to the Galvez and Co. offer, which information convinced the chief of staff and the secretary of national defense to approving said offer, it added.

The investigation of the negotiated sale between the Army and Galvez and Co. was directed by the President last May 6. In his directive, he created a presidential committee and charged it to review the negotiated sale of certain Army equipment and/or supplies. The committee carried on its work from May 6 to May 19.

President Magsaysay directed the immediate relief of Col. Salientes as G-4 chief pending his court-martial.

May 25.—THE President this morning received Gen. Earle Partridge, outgoing commander of the U. S. Far East Air Force, who called at Malacañang to say goodbye prior to his return to the United States to take over the continental air defense command.

Accompanied by U. S. Ambassador Homer Ferguson, Gen. and Mrs. William Lee of Clark Field and Mrs. Partridge, the four-star General arrived at Malacañang at about 10 a.m. in the course of a farewell tour of Far Eastern air bases under his command. His call lasted some 20 minutes.

"I regret to see you leave because you have helped us a lot in so many ways during the more than one year you have been with us," the President told Gen. Partridge. "But I am sure you will just as effectively be serving the cause of democracy in your new assignment."

Gen. Partridge is scheduled to return to the U. S. in two weeks to take over the continental air defense command from Gen. Benjamin Chiddlaw, who is retiring. He leaves Manila for Taipeh, Formosa, tomorrow morning, thence to Korea and then back to his Tokyo headquarters where he will enplane for the homeland. He will be succeeded by Gen. Lawrence Kuter, of the air university command in Alabama, U. S. A., as FEAF commander here.

EARLIER this morning, the President sent a congratulatory message to Rep. Florencio Moreno of Romblon, who is celebrating his 19th wedding anniversary. Then he received several callers, including Mrs. Sergio Osmeña, Sr., wife of the former President, and Reps. Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo and William Chiongbian of Misamis Occidental.

THE President convoked the regular weekly meeting of his Cabinet about 10:30 a.m.

The Cabinet with President Magsaysay presiding decided this day to resume the outright sale of houses and lots in projects 1 and 2 of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation in Quezon City.

The sale system, which had been in force under the old administration, was suspended in February last year by President Magsaysay in line with the recommendation of a special committee which had been created to study PHHC projects. Among other reasons, the committee said there was danger under the sale system that "most of the houses and lots would eventually pass out of the hands of the low-income group into ownership of moneyed people who, undoubtedly, would increase rentals in accordance with the natural increase in real property values."

However, the Cabinet reversed this policy today and resumed the sale system after its attention was called to the fact that under the lease contracts with tenants in projects 1 and 2, such tenants were given the option to purchase. They could exercise such option after five years continuous occupancy and satisfactory observance of the terms and conditions of their leases.

In view of this provision, the Cabinet ruled that the PHHC had no other alternative but to make good its commitment by selling to the tenants, the houses and lots in both projects.

The Cabinet also approved:

(1) Official trips for Captain Emilio Assistores, deputy administrator of the Civil Aeronautics Administration, and Rafael Bartolome, associate horticulturist, Bureau of Plant Industry. Assistores will attend the 9th session of the ICAO assembly at Montreal, Canada, on May 31. Bartolome will visit Guam, Yap, Ponape, Truk, and other islands in the Marianas group to gather coffee and cacao for planting. His expenses will be borne by the FOA.

(2) The proposed promotion of Filemon Zablan from assistant general manager to acting general manager of the National Power Corporation, with salary of P18,000.

JUSTICE Secretary Pedro Tuason told Resident Magsaysay today that he "has not found any evidence of corruption or culpable negligence" against Maj. Calixto Duque (Ret.), former AFP chief of staff, in connection with the *ponchos* scandal."

Tuason bared this finding to the Chief Executive before the start of the Cabinet meeting. He recommended that General Duque be exonerated of any liability for the *ponchos* case.

Tuason added that he was preparing a written report which he hoped to submit to the President either today or tomorrow. He had been asked to look into Duque's liability in connection with the transaction after Commodore Jose V. Andrada, PN, Malacañang adviser on defense and security who had conducted a pre-trial investigation of the case, had recommended Duque's court-martial on the theory of "command responsibility."

The President had approved Andrada's other recommendation for the court-martial of two officers, Col. Rigoberto Atienza and Col. Arturo Garcia, for the same transaction.

THE President this day ordered the suspension of three municipal mayors for periods ranging from one to six months for having been found guilty of a number of administrative charges filed against them.

Mayor Cosme Cabilbil of Plaridel, Misamis Occidental, who was ordered suspended for six months, was found guilty of maladministration. Mayor Herminio Electona of Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental, also drew six months'

suspension for abuse of authority and usurpation of judicial functions, while Mayor Cayetano S. Capistrano of Salay, Misamis Oriental, was given one month's suspension for a violation of the Administrative Code.

The maladministration charge against Mayor Cabilbil, of which he was found guilty, among other things, consisted of his having employed government laborers in the construction of fishponds owned by his wife. His investigation was conducted by a special investigator from Malacañang.

Mayor Electona was found to have usurped judicial functions when he issued warrants of arrest for the apprehension of certain persons charged with violation of a municipal ordinance instead of leaving the matter to the justice of the peace. In suspending Electona, Malacañang confirmed the findings of the provincial board which investigated his case.

Mayor Capistrano violated a provision in the Administrative Code by holding a pecuniary interest in a cockpit located in his municipality. Considering, however, as a mitigating circumstances the fact that this was the first case presented against him and that he had already been the owner and operator of the cockpit long before he assumed office, Malacañang granted him a certain degree of leniency and gave him only a one-month suspension.

May 26.—MALACAÑANG announced this morning that there was no change in the orders of President Magsaysay to proceed with the court-martial of Colonels Manuel Q. Salientes and Arturo Garcia in connection with the P802,400 supplies deal with Japan.

At the same time, a Palace spokesman emphasized that Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff, had neither assailed nor taken exception to, nor appealed from the report and recommendations of the committee, headed by Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, which had proposed the court-martial.

General Vargas saw the President this morning and denied that he had attacked the committee's report. The AFP chief of staff pointed out that he had not even seen the report and therefore could not have commented on it.

Earlier this morning, Defense Undersecretary Crisol called on the President about his committee's report in connection with the P802,400 supplies deal with Japan. Just after Crisol had left the Palace, Gen. Vargas came in.

AFTER seeing Gen. Vargas, the President had a breakfast conference with Negros Occidental politicians. His guests were Rep. Agustin Gatuslao, Gov. Valeriano Gatuslao, former Senator Pedro Hernaez, and Ramon Lacson.

THE President later motored to the University of the East auditorium, where he addressed around 2,000 delegates to the 1955 Labor-Management Congress. He was accompanied by Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevos and his aide, Maj. Pat Garcia.

President Magsaysay pledged his administration to the support of the Magna Carta of Labor when in his speech he declared that sound labor-management relations in a democratic society must rest on an "essentially voluntary basis."

The President said: "The conditions to the attainment of industrial peace may be fulfilled only through mutual acceptance. Any other approach to the problem is inadequate."

Defining the Government's role in labor-management relations, the President averred that the Government "can only provide leadership and guidance, but it cannot impose industrial peace."

"This must come out of the joint efforts of employees and workers themselves," he declared.

The President then stated that the congress was a tangible proof that management and labor had accepted the responsibility of securing an industrial peace for the nation.

“It follows” he said, “that when you decided to accept this responsibility—you will want to examine all your problems open-mindedly and frankly and with a minimum of reservations.

The President commended the 1955 Labor-Management Congress for having successfully “brought together in a single hall the leading representatives of labor and management in the spirit of friendly consultation over common problems.”

The President was fetched by Secretary Adevosio at 9:10 a.m. and arrived at the University of the East about five minutes later. The Chief Executive was met by Undersecretary of Labor Agapito Braganza and members of the Labor-Management Advisory Council headed by Chairman Francisco Dalupan.

Upon entering the conference hall, the President was received with applaud by the delegates. He walked to the rostrum while the Philippine Constabulary band played a lively march. He delivered his speech at exactly 9:30 a.m.

Flanking the President on the speaker’s platform were Secretary Adevosio and Dalupan. The others on the platform were Monsgr. Reyes, Cipriano Cid, members of the Labor-Management Advisory Council, and David A. Morse, director-general of the International Labor Office.

AFTER delivering his speech, the President left for Malacañang to attend to some other engagements. He returned to Malacañang shortly after 10:00 a.m. (*Watch for the June issue for the full text of the President’s address.*)

May 27.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning received Dr. Lawrence R. Hafstad, former director of the Reactor Development Division of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, who called to pay his respects following his recent arrival in the Philippines to look into the feasibility of establishing atomic power plants here.

Accompanied by H. B. Reyes, vice-president of the Meralco, Dr. Hafstad told the President that during the few days he had been here, he had formed the impression that atomic power would be very practical here in view of the high cost of fuel in this country. He suggested a review of this nation’s power development program and the consideration of atomic energy as a source of cheap power. He said he knew of several American firms which would gladly set up nuclear reactors in this country. Dr. Hafstad is currently director of the atomic energy division of the Chase Manhattan Bank.

The President said he would consider the suggestion seriously.

EARLIER this morning, the President received Charles Henderson III, president and general manager of the Henderson Trippe Corporation, who discussed plans of his company to establish textile mills in this country. He was accompanied to Malacañang by Sen. Lorenzo M. Tañada and Code Commissioner Enrique M. Fernando.

SOME 500 delegates to the five-day convention of the Philippine Library Association called to present a resolution pledging their support of the Administration’s rural development program. Headed by Severino Velasco, association president, the delegates informed the President that the main topic at their convention was the promotion of library service to the outlying districts.

A DELEGATION from the UNESCO Youth Coordinating Agency of the Philippines also pledged support to the government’s land tenure program. During the call, the President administered the oath of office to the agency’s newly elected officers headed by Vicente Fernando, chairman of the executive committee. The delegation was accompanied by Miss Lumen Policarpio, executive secretary of the UNESCO.

The Chief Executive received callers from 8 to 11 a.m. The rest of his visitors consisted mainly of senators, representatives, and provincial governors who sought funds for pressing projects in their respective localities.

Among other callers were Sen. Jose Zulueta, who requested P10,000 for the municipal building of Oton, Iloilo; Tarlac Rep. Constancio Castañeda, Gov. Arsenio Lugay, and Mayantoc Vice-Mayor Rosendo Tomas, who sought

the construction of an irrigation project; Albert Parsons of the SPCA, who invited the President to a movie benefit premiere; Speaker Pro-tempore Daniel Z. Romualdez and Gov. Bernardo Torres of Leyte; and Reps. Godofredo Ramos of Capiz and Ombra Amilbangsa of Sulu.

AT 11 a.m., the President retired to his private study, where he held a series of conferences with various assistants on pending state matters.

IN the afternoon, the President received a big delegation of girl scouts which presented him with a scroll listing the accomplishments of the GSP for the period from 1953 to 1955.

Miss Cecilia Traviño, senior scout, assisted by seven-year-old Regina Calupitan, Brownie scout, read the scroll at a simple ceremony in Malacañang. The Scout leaders said they presented the scroll to the President “as a token of our allegiance and devotion to the head of state.”

The Malacañang ceremony highlighted the crystal anniversary of the GSP movement in the country.

The girl scouts listed as their outstanding accomplishments the nationwide thrift campaign which resulted in savings deposits amounting to P22,143.11.

The GSP delegation was treated to a *merienda* by the President. Heading the delegation were Mrs. Concepcion R. Gonzales, national president; Mrs. Pilar H. Lim, national commissioner; Mrs. Maria Kalaw-Katigbak, national treasurer; and Miss Mariquita Castelo, national GSP executive.

THE President signed this day Executive Order No. 115, reorganizing the National Security Council, to be known henceforth as Council of National Defense.

The council shall be composed of the President, as chairman, the Vice-President, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the members of the Cabinet, the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, the National Civil Defense Administrator, the Chairman of the Committee on National Defense and Security of the Senate, the Chairman of the Committee on National Defense of the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Senate, and the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

The secretary of the council shall be an officer of the AFP to be designated by the President upon the recommendation of the Secretary of National Defense.

The Council shall advise the President on matters of national defense and security and shall make recommendations on such other subjects as the President may submit for study and recommendation from time to time. It shall also perform the duties and functions provided in Executive Order No. 35, dated May 20, 1954.

THE President also issued this day Proclamation No. 160, “reserving for certain specific purposes certain parcels of the public domain situated in the municipality of M’lang, province of Cotabato, island of Mindanao.”

May 28.—ALL, was quiet on the Malacañang front this day, as the President had left the Palace last night for an undisclosed place.

It was learned that even Arlegui slowed down its pace this day, as its top officials went in search of better climes.

Press Secretary J. V. Cruz expressed the belief the President boarded his yacht *Pagasa* and “is probably fishing.”

May 29.—FOR the second consecutive day, Malacañang remained quiet the whole day today. The President remained on his yacht *Pagasa*, “cruising off Manila Bay.” Press Secretary Cruz would not say further than that the President was fishing off the Zambales coast.

With the President absent, Malacañang was deadlier than a mausoleum. Malacañang was so silent in fact that one could hear the light drop of pawn on the chess boards of the press office.

Reporters and press office staffers alike found a further excuse for knocking off much earlier than usual to escape the bites of hungry mosquitoes.

May 30.—AFTER two days' rest cruising aboard the yacht *Pagasa* off Zambales in Manila Bay, the President returned to Malacañang early this morning.

THE President upon his arrival in the Palace received a delegation from the Moral Rearmament Group which informed him of the forthcoming arrival here of a world mission of statesmen touring key cities in Asia, the Middle East, and Africa in connection with its campaign for the reestablishment of moral principles in international relations.

Accompanied by Rep. Reseller T. Lim of Zamboanga del Sur and Dean Vicente Sinco, the delegation informed the President that the mission would arrive here on June 25 with members of a troupe which would put up an idiological play, *The Vanishing Island*, for the benefit of local audiences. The play is currently being shown in Machinac Island, Michigan, U. S. A., following its run in Chicago, Illinois, and a number of California cities.

The world mission will tour key capitals half-way around the globe to meet the leaders of Asia and the Moslem world to explore possibilities of arriving at a common understanding based on moral standards and uniting the peoples of all nations irrespective of color, creed, or station in life.

The mission will include such political leaders as Mahmoud Masmoudi, Tunisian minister of state; Ole Bjorn Kraft, former foreign minister of Denmark; Eugene Claudius-Petit, former labor minister of France, and John MacGovern, member of Britain's House of Commons. The mission is expected to stay in the Philippines for 10 days.

The President this morning received callers at his executive office from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. His visitors mainly consisted of delegations from the provinces which requested funds for irrigation projects, municipal buildings, schoolhouses, puericulture centers, and artesian wells.

Among such delegation were those from Masbate headed by Rep. Mateo Pecson; from Masantol, Pampanga, headed by Rep. Diosdado Macapagal; and from Sablayan, Mindoro Occidental, accompanied by former Rep. Jesus Abeleda. Other callers included Rep. Erasmo Cruz of Bulacan and some Samar mayors; namely, Pedro Betilez of Talalora, Judge Panajostan of Arteche, and Egildo Banawis of Gamay.

SHORTLY after 12 noon, the President had lunch with John P. Stickley, visiting vice-president of Lion's International. Other luncheon guests were Mrs. Stickley, Dean Santiago P. de la Cruz, Carlos Rivilla, Mariano del Rosario, and Manuel Gonzalez.

IN the afternoon, the President met Malacañang newsmen at a *merienda* at the social hall.

May 31.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay and Congress leaders agreed today on July 5 as tentative date for the opening of the special session and drew up an initial list of six bills for its agenda.

A Malacañang breakfast conference this morning, which lasted from 8 to 9:30 a.m., decided that the presiding officers of the two Houses will appoint six committees—three from each Chamber—to study the bills earmarked for the agenda and thresh differences between the two Houses. There will be a separate committee for each bill (except one) and its mission will be to hammer out legislation acceptable to both Chambers to insure their prompt approval as soon as the special session is convened.

It was also agreed that officials of the Executive Department will be available to the committees for consultation on these measures.

The six measures earmarked for inclusion in the special session agenda follow:

- (1) Land tenure bill;
- (2) Foreign investments bill;
- (3) Public works bill, including a P100 million appropriation for irrigation projects.
- (4) Bill increasing the borrowing capacity of the National Power Corporation to P400 million;
- (5) Election Code; and
- (6) Bill to ban no-dollar imports.

The conference also agreed that the officers of both Chambers will list the bills which are awaiting conference committee approval and those which had been approved on third reading upon adjournment of the last regular session and will submit this list to another conference with the President within two weeks. This conference will then choose which of these bills are most urgent, and they will be included in the agenda.

The need for a bill to ban no-dollar imports was impressed on the conference by Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, who said this type of imports—financed with black market dollars—encouraged black marketing in dollars and at the same time constituted a drain on the country's dollar reserves. These black market dollars, he said, by law should be in the possession of the Central Bank and thus should add to the dollar reserves.

Cuaderno said his office could do nothing against these transactions since a lower court decision disauthorized the Central Bank from inquiring into the source of dollars used in no-dollar imports. Hence, there is need for legislation banning no-dollar imports, he added.

The conference named Cuaderno to a committee to draft the corresponding legislation together with Sen. Edmundo Cea and Rep. Ramon Durano, chairmen of the committees on commerce and industry of the Senate and the House, respectively.

In connection with the dollars problem, Cuaderno denied at the conference that the country's dollar reserves had fallen to "an alarming level." He said the latest figure was \$245 million and added this was an adequate level. He explained that one of the major reasons for the decline in the dollar reserves was the fact that \$51 million were released last year for machinery and raw materials for new industries.

President Magsaysay inquired whether it was true that \$11 million also had been released last year for tourists. Cuaderno said this was not exactly so, pointing out this figure included allocations for Filipino students abroad. The President urged that in any event, dollar grants for pleasure tourists be cut drastically.

A suggestion by Sen. Alejo Mabanag that the land tenure bill be abandoned was overwhelmingly turned down by the conference. Mabanag argued that the President had ample authority under the Constitution to expropriate landed estates. President Magsaysay replied that while he could undertake the expropriation of vast estates provided he was given the money, the reason he wants a land reform bill is that he does not wish to deprive Congress of the opportunity to define a clear and general policy on expropriation. He said he would be guided by such a policy.

Present at the conference, besides the President, were Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., Senators Emmanuel Pelaez, Justiniano Montano, Gil J. Puyat, Claro M. Recto, Fernando Lopez, Jose Locsin, Cipriano P. Primicias, Edmundo Cea, and Alejo Mabanag; Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr.; Congressmen Daniel Romualdez, Florencio Moreno, Constancio Castañeda, Rogaciano M. Mercado, Augusto Francisco, Lorenzo Teves, Jose Roy, Emilio Cortez, Eulogio Rodriguez, Jr., Godofredo Ramos, and Arturo M. Tolentino; and Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta and Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, Sr.

The PRESIDENT this morning received Richard G. Matheson, Jaycee vice-president for North America, and E. LaMar Buckner, Jaycee president in the United States, who called to pay their respects. The Jaycee visitors arrived in Manila last night in the course of their tour in the Far East to check up on "Operations Brotherhood."

During their call, the Jaycee officials told the President they had long been looking forward to his visit to the United States. They said that the Jaycees in America had often cited President Magsaysay as an example of what young men could do in this day and age.

The President replied he could not as yet make the trip owing to assure of work here. He said he had already written President Eisenhower informing him of his inability to visit the U.S. at this time.

The visiting Jaycees were accompanied to Malacañang by Roberto Villanueva, past JCI President; Amelito Mutoc president of the Philippine Jaycess; Johnny Limjoco, vice-president for PJC international relations; and Oscar Arellano, world coordinator of "Operations Brotherhood."

The President started the day with a breakfast conference with legislative Leaders on the projected special session of Congress. Following the conference, the President retired to his study where he receive several callers including Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, who consulted him on various pending matters in the Department of Foreign Affairs, and later with Sen. Francisco Delgado.

AT 10:45 a.m., the President proceeded to his executive office, where he received provincial delegations which presented him with their local problems.

Officials and political leaders of San Pablo City called to present him with an excerpt of the minutes of a recent meeting of the local chapter of the Nacionalista Party requesting the NP national directorate to declare Gov. Dominador Chipeco as official NP candidate for reelection in Laguna.

The President advised the group to submit their request to Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, NP president. However, he told the Laguna political leaders that he was personally in favor of the reelection bid of Gov. Chipeco.

A large delegation from Sto. Tomas, Pampanga, which arrived in Malacañang in five buses protested against the proposed transfer of the site of their municipal building to barrio San Matias. This group was headed by Pampanga Governor Rafael Lazatin and Mayor Patricio Gomez.

The Chief Executive received callers until 12:30 p.m. Among his other visitors who conferred with him individually were Reps. Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur, Wenceslao Lagumbay of Laguna, and Apolinario Apacible of Batangas; Foreign Undersecretary Raul S. Manglapus; Gov. Adelmo Camacho of Bataan; Lt. Gen. Jesus Vargas; and Col. Antonio Chanco.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay sent a cable to Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo in Washington directing him to report immediately by wire on the status of the Laurel-Langley agreement pending before the U. S. Congress.

The President expressed concern over reports that the agreement, which already had been approved by the Philippine Congress, was encountering rough sailing in the American Congress. He asks Romulo to brief him on whether these reports were true, what the nature and extent of the opposition (if any) to the agreement was, and its probable fate in the U. S. Congress. The President requested a prompt reply to his wire.

THE President reinstated today to office suspended Makati Mayor Jose D. Villena following the mayor's acquittal by the Court of Appeals on a charge of falsification of a public document.

The letter to Mayor Villena signed by Acting Executive Secretary Mariano Yenko, Jr., by authority of the President, said in view of the mayor's acquittal, "your suspension is hereby lifted without prejudice to the outcome of the administrative case against you, now pending decision in this office."

The charge of which Villena had been acquitted recently by the Court of Appeals was one of the offenses cited in the administrative case against him. Other charges involved in the administrative investigation of Mayor Villena are alleged extortion and unauthorized practice of law.

Ignacio Babosa, the acting municipal mayor of Makati, Rizal, had been informed of the President's action reinstating Mayor Villena.

THE President today signed a proclamation extending up to May 31, 1956, the thrift campaign declared in Proclamation No. 54, dated May 9, 1954. This signing of the proclamation was deemed necessary, as the success of the thrift campaign under the sponsorship of the Bankers Association of the Philippines warranted extension of the drive for another year.

The President this day also paid tribute to the progress of the local movie industry when he wrote congratulatory letters to the producer, the male star, the director, and the script writer of the movie *Ifugao*, who won Golden Harvest awards in the recent Southeast Asia Film Festival.

The President congratulated Dr. Ciriaco Santiago, proprietor of the Premiere Productions, Inc., "on your convincing success made possible by your widely acclaimed picture *Ifugao*." He added, "In Asia at least, they have turned the spotlight on our local movie industry as one with great potentialities."

President Magsaysay warmly congratulated Efren Reyes on his selection as the best actor "for your inspired portrayal in *Ifugao* on the occasion of the recent Southeast Asia Film Festival." He said that the honor might well be taken as proof that "our local artists can vie with their foreign counterparts and that the local movie industry has come of age."

To Dr. Gerardo de Leon, who had been acclaimed the best director, the President said inspired direction of *Ifugao* has won added respect for Philippine moving pictures and has given a much needed boost to the local film industry.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

Magsaysay, R. (1955). Official Month in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51 (5), cxcvi-ccxxxvii.

Official Month in Review: June 1955

June 1.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today conferred with Ambassador Felino Neri, who arrived early this morning from Tokyo where he held reparations talks with the Japanese. The President conferred with Neri for 30 minutes. After the conference, the President issued the following statement:

“I am pleased with the result of the mission of Ambassador Neri and the Philippine technical panel. The way has been paved for the final negotiations in Manila. At this stage, it is not possible to reveal the details of the work of the mission, but I can say that definite progress has been made.”

AFTER receiving Ambassador Neri, the President inducted into office the members of the National Board of Education, the highest education policy-making body of the government, and Venancio Trinidad and Benigno Aldana as director and assistant director, respectively, of public schools.

The induction was held at the study room of the Chief Executive, which was filled to capacity by ranking education officials who witnessed the ceremonies.

The National Board of Education is entrusted with formulating the basic educational policies of the government and is composed of representatives from all branches of the government and leading private education officials.

Members of the board are: Secretary of Education Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., chairman, Sen. Jose P. Laurel, Rep. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing, Education Undersecretary Martin Aguilar, Jr., Director of Public Schools Venancio Trinidad, Director of Private Schools Daniel Salcedo, Assistant Director of Public Schools Benigno Aldana, U. P. President Vidal A. Tan, F. E. U. President Teodoro Evangelista, UNESCO Chairman Mariano de los Santos, Jesus Paredes, Jr., Don Toribio Teodoro, Marcelo Acayan, Salih Uttutalum, V. Catapusan, and Mrs. Felicidad Silva.

BEFORE the induction ceremonies, President Magsaysay signed into law House Bill No. 3720, appropriating P17 million for the readjustment of salaries of public school officials, teachers, and other schools personnel of the Bureau of Public Schools and of Welfareville teachers for the fiscal year 1955–1956.

The Chief Executive also signed before a large delegation from Batangas, headed by Rep. Apolinario Apacible, House Bill No. 2948, creating an additional position of assistant provincial fiscal in Batangas, and House Bill No. 3407, creating the municipality of San Nicolas, also in Batangas. The new municipality of San Nicolas consists of 18 barrios which were separated from Taal.

The P17 million for the salary readjustment of teachers will be appropriated out of any funds in the national treasury not otherwise appropriated. Even though the act is subject to the availability of funds, it contains a provision requiring that it should be given top priority. After the fiscal year 1955–1956, the necessary sum to carry out the provisions of the act would be included in the annual general appropriations act.

Present at the signing of the act were Secretary of Education Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., Rep. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz, chairman of the House Committee on education; Reps. Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur and Jacobo Gonzales of Laguna, Director of Public Schools Venancio Trinidad, Assistant Director of Public Schools Benigno Aldana, other members of the National Board of Education, and other ranking education and public schools officials.

The President also received Servillano Aquino, chairman of the technical committee of the Gold Subsidy Board, who informed him that 60 to 70 per cent of the gold companies in the country would have closed if it were not for the efforts of the board.

According to Aquino, the gold companies were still in danger because of the low market price of gold and insufficient subsidy. He told the President that the danger affects about 30,000 laborers in the gold industry.

Aquino also informed the President that the price of gold in the free market had dropped from P110 per ounce about eight months ago to P95 per ounce now. The President directed the Gold Subsidy Board to do its best to aid the gold industry.

Members of the board are Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta, chairman, Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevos, Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, and Aquino.

The President and his Cabinet at their meeting this day approved the instructions for the Philippine delegation to the fourth session of the International Sugar Council in London, Britain. Among other things, the delegation was instructed to press for an increase of the Philippine quota in the world open market for sugar.

The Cabinet meeting which lasted from 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. was attended for the first time by incoming Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno. Outgoing Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa was also present.

The Cabinet also approved:

- (1) The expenditure by the Manila Railroad Company of P2,371,000 for the purchase of diesel rail cars, passenger and baggage cars, and other equipment for the improvement of their services;
- (2) Termination of the assignment abroad of the Philippine trade delegation to West Germany and other European countries; and
- (3) The extension of the barter trade agreement between the Philippines and Japan.

The President also appointed a Cabinet committee to study the recommendations of the Community Development Planning Council on a five-year national program of community development in the Philippines.

Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia submitted to the President a memorandum containing instructions for the Philippine delegation to the fourth session of the International Sugar Council which started today, June 1, 1955, in London.

Among the instructions approved by the Cabinet were that the Philippine delegation demand from the International Sugar Council a greater quota in the world free market, press for an increased quota in the United States sugar market, and work for an increased quota in Japan. No details as to exact figures were made available. The instructions had been recommended for Cabinet approval after consultation with Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, Economic Coordination Administrator Alfredo Montelibano and Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta.

Vice-President Garcia immediately wired approval of the instructions to Ambassador to Britain Leon Ma. Guerrero, chairman of the Philippine delegation. Members are former Ambassador Jose Romero and Salvador G. Oliveros, with Stewart Jamieson as consultant.

During the Cabinet meeting, Ramon P. Binamira, project director and executive secretary of the Community Development Planning Council, explained by means of illustrated charts a five-year national plan for community development in the Philippines.

According to Binamira, the immediate targets of the plan shall be greater adequate community organization for increasingly effective utilization of government services and, as far as practical, through application of the principle of self-help, for the execution of economic and social programs. Among the programs envisioned are the construction of roads to connect all barrios with principal highways; increasing the productivity and income of the barrio population through development of agriculture and other industries; improving the facilities for health, water supply, sanitation, housing, and recreation; and increasing citizen awareness and action with respect to the implementation of laws on agricultural tenancy, cooperatives, minimum wages, usury, and other subjects.

It was explained that this plan would be carried out at barrio, municipal, and provincial levels.

Binamira explained that community service at barrio level would consist in the construction of barrio roads, irrigation facilities, primary schools, one well for every 500 people, first aid treatment center, maintenance of a trained midwife, organizing a community center, and improvement of home toilets.

There was discussion among the Cabinet members as regards the implementation of these proposals. On the suggestion of Social Welfare Administrator Pacita M. Warns, the President appointed a committee consisting of the secretaries of health, education, agriculture, public works, labor, and the social welfare administrator, to study the work being done by the different departments along the lines envisioned by the Community Development Planning Council, the ways to integrate this work, and the mechanics of carrying out this program. The committee will meet Saturday morning at Malacañang and report to the Cabinet its recommendations on the proposed plan for community development in the Philippines.

IN the afternoon, the President formally launched the 1955 annual fund campaign of the Community Chest of Greater Manila at ceremonies held at the Malacañang social hall.

In his kick-off speech, the President said that it is the policy of the Administration to give all-out encouragement to the voluntary efforts of citizens in the field of social service since these efforts help the Government in providing more adequately for the well-being of the people.

The Chief Executive said, "The Community Chest is one of my cherished allies in our program of social betterment."

He paid tribute to the commendable accomplishments of the Community Chest which in the previous year had helped more than 700,000 persons through its 18 Red Feather agencies.

The President gave his share by handing a check in the sum of P1,000 to Ramon V. del Rosario, general chairman of the 1955 Community Chest fund campaign.

During the program held at the social hall, FEU President Teodoro Evangelista, who is the president of the board of directors, and Ramon V. del Rosario gave brief remarks. Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, Advanced Gifts Division chairman, made a preliminary report on the successful activities of his division.

Mrs. Chito Madrigal-Vasquez, vice-chairman of the 1955 campaign, presided over the ceremonies and introduced the President, who was the principal speaker. Miss Juanita R. Javier sang to the accompaniment of the Philippine Constabulary band conducted by Lt. Col. Antonino Buenaventura.

The kick-off ceremonies were broadcast by remote control over all radio stations. A big cosmopolitan crowd filled the social hall. Heading the guests were Cabinet members, diplomatic and consular corps, businessmen, and social workers.

June 2.—THIS morning, the President had breakfast at the Palace with Sen. Edmundo B. Cea, Rep. Fernando Pajarillo, and Gov. Wilfredo Panotes of Camarines Norte. Other early callers of the President were Sen. Francisco A. Delgado, Reps. Emilio Cortes of Pampanga, Guillermo Sanchez of Agusan, and Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo.

THE President today personally congratulated the Philippine winners in the recent Asian Film Festival held in Singapore. The winners, all from the Premiere Productions, Inc., called on the President at Malacañang.

Leading the winners were Efren Reyes and Gerardo de Leon, adjudged best actor and best director, respectively, for their work in the film *Ifugao*. Also with the group were Ciriaco Santiago, producer of the film and one of the owners of the Premiere studios, and Narciso Pimentel, Jr., one of the judges at the Asian Film Festival.

The President was shown the awards and plaques presented to the winners. *Ifugao* also won the prize for best screen play. To actor Efren Reyes, the President said: "Congratulations, you really made a name for our country."

EARLIER, the President received some members of the Padre Burgos General Assembly of the Knights of Columbus who invited him to attend the rites in celebration of Flag Day on June 12. The President told the KC men that Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug would attend the ceremonies for him.

The President also told the KC members that he would rally the people behind the celebration of Flag Day. Those who called on the Chief Executive were ex-Justice Manuel Lim, Dean Jose M. Hernandez, Manuel Garcia, and Lt. Col. Pedro Vinluan.

The President also received Arthur Watson, president of the IBM World Trade Corporation, and Charles Decker, president of the Japan and Philippines branches of the IBM, who paid a courtesy call. The IBM executives were accompanied by J. R. Arguelles, manager of the local IBM branch.

THE President this morning received a delegation of mayors from Quezon who called at Malacañang to present to him some of their most pressing local problems.

Mayor Bienvenido Marquez of Padre Burgos, president of the Quezon Mayors' League, who acted as spokesman, informed the President that forest guards of the Bureau of Forestry had arrested and jailed hundreds of *kaingeros* in several towns of the province. He said that many of the forest lands which the *kaingeros* had been cultivating, had been devoid of any trees for many years and that the Bureau of Forestry had neither reforested them nor declared the lands as agricultural lands.

The President picked up a telephone and instructed Forestry Director Felipe R. Amos to look into the alleged indiscriminate mass arrests of persons whose only fault was planting some idle government lands with camotes and vegetables in order to feed their hungry families. He told Amos to go slow on the arrests and to facilitate the conversion of deforested areas so that they could be distributed to the landless as agricultural lands. The President made clear he was not encouraging wanton destruction of the country's timber resources but wanted a realistic and fair application of laws.

Accompanied by Quezon Gov. Vicente Constantino, the delegation included Board Member Vicente Correa; Mayors Marcal Punzalan of Tiaong, league vice-president; Jose Nieva of Macalelong, secretary; Victorino Ruanto of Infanta, Andres Remo of Sariaya, Nemesio Jorquia of Aurora, Romualdo Vargas of Unisan, Simon Leonor of Calauag, Marcelino Batocabe of Pagbilao, Valeriano M. Oliveros of Alabat, Mariano Roldan of Guinayangan, Amando Aguirre of Mulanay, Jose Carmen of Gen. Luna, Mamerto Azarias of Polillo, Benjamin Reyes of Tayabas, Delfin Reyes of Dolores, and Primitivo Pasta of Buenavista.

REP. Celestino Juan of Nueva Ecija accompanied two delegations from his province. One delegation from Cabanatuan City requested the amendment of the city charter so as to make the positions of mayor and vice-mayor elective. The other delegation from Gapan which was headed by Mayor Jose Cabatuando sought the installation of Liberty wells in some barrios of his municipality.

A joint delegation from Tagaytay City and Amadeo, Cavite, headed by Mayors Isaac Tolentino and Santos Ambagan also asked aid for urgent projects in their localities. Tagaytay Mayor Tolentino particularly wanted a water pump to increase the pressure of the city's water system for hundreds of tourists and other sightseers daily visiting the city.

ANOTHER delegation from Compostela, Davao, headed by Mayor Lauro C. Arabejo presented a petition seeking the release of an abandoned pasture land to its present occupants.

AMONG the last callers were Rep. Ombra Amilbangsa of Sulu, who brought to the President's attention some problems of the NARRA settlement in Tawi-Tawi.

June 3.—THIS morning, the President administered the oath of office to Pedro C. Quinto, who was reappointed Judge of the Court of First Instance of Isabela.

After the ceremony, the Chief Executive received Rep. Domocao Alonto and Gov. Salvador Lluch of Lanao, who requested funds for the widening of the mouth of the Agos River, which serves as an outlet for the Lake. They said that the level of the lake had risen because of the recent earthquakes and that its outlet should be enlarged to avoid possible overflowing of the lake into nearby inhabited areas.

The President also received the Most Rev. Jose Ma. Cuenco, archbishop of Jaro, Iloilo, who called to say goodbye prior to his departure for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to represent the Philippines Catholic hierarchy at the International Eucharistic Congress and at the general conference of the Latin American Episcopate to be held in that city next month.

Accompanied by his secretary, Rev. Ciceron A. Martires, Mons. Cuenco informed the President that he would go first to California to receive an honorary degree of doctor of laws from the University of Sta. Clara, his alma mater, where he would also be the commencement speaker.

THE President this morning received very few callers in view of his desire to work on a backlog of pending state matters. Among his last callers were Gov. Primitivo Buagas of Cotabato and Hans Menzi.

MEANWHILE, the Chief Executive today ordered two special investigators sent to Dansalan, Davao, to look into a land dispute in the locality. The President received a report yesterday that some 133 squatters had been arrested and jailed in view of their refusal to follow a court order to vacate a piece of land which they had been cultivating and improving since 1948.

The dispute involves pasture land consisting of 1,320 hectares. According to a delegation which called at Malacañang yesterday noon, the land had been abandoned in favor of the squatters by one Rafael Suarez, who had leased the property before the war.

The delegation informed the President that the squatters had taken over about 800 hectares of the land which they had planted to ramie, coconuts, and other plants. Recently, one Herminio Suarez, not a relative of the other Suarez, came out to claim title to the property, which claim had been recognized by the Bureau of Forestry. The squatters were ordered arrested and jailed reportedly because of their failure to comply with a court order to vacate the premises.

The President this morning ordered Assistant Executive Secretary Enrique C. Quema to dispatch by plane two special investigators, one from the Bureau of Forestry and the other from the PCAC. The President told Quema to instruct the investigators to resolve the controversy as soon as possible and to look after the interest of the landless squatters who were being evicted by Suarez who, it was reported, already owned three ranches.

The President received callers until 11 a.m. Then he retired to his private study, where he pored over a pile of pending state papers.

THE President had a luncheon-conference today with Democratic Party leaders who presented to him a proposal for the continuation of the coalition under certain conditions.

The conference, which lasted from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m., was attended by Sen. Fernando Lopez, DP president; Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma; Economic Coordination Administrator Alfredo Montelibano; Sens. Lorenzo Sumulong and Ruperto Kangleon; Reps. Jose Aldeguez, Ricardo Ladrado, and Pedro Trono of Iloilo, Ramon Mitra of Mt. Province, Jose Puey and Carlos Hilado of Negros Occidental, Jose Roy of Tarlac, Serafin Salvador of Rizal, Conrado Morente of Mindoro Oriental, Ramon Durano of Cebu, Lucas Paredes of Abra, and Domingo Veloso of Leyte; and former Representative Cipriano Allas.

President Magsaysay set a breakfast-conference for Tuesday June 7, between Nacionalistas and Democrats Party leaders to discuss the future of the existing coalition between the two parties.

IN the afternoon, the President received A. Strok and Alfredo Lozano, world and local impresario respectively of the Symphony of the Air which arrived in the Philippines June 2 for a series of performances.

The Chief Executive told the courtesy callers he was looking forward to attending the first performance of the orchestra, formerly the famous NBC Symphony of Maestro Arturo Toscanini, on Monday, June 6, at the Mapua Institute of Technology auditorium.

The President thanked Strok for bringing the orchestra to this country. He said, "You have given our people this rare opportunity of listening to one of the greatest orchestras in the world."

Strok smilingly replied: "Excuse me, Mr. President, but I believe that it is the greatest."

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this afternoon was presented a medal and a diploma of merit by the National Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations for the numerous benefits which are being enjoyed today by the people as a result of the solicitude of the Administration for the people's welfare.

The medal was pinned on the Chief Executive by Azucena G. Mediavillo (Miss Barrio PTA), and the citation was read by Jesus Tanghal Dera, PTA general secretary, at ceremonies held at the Malacañang social hall.

Jose C. Canuto, President of the association who was the master of ceremonies, read to the President a report of the results of the 1955 PTA conference held in Manila from May 28 to June 3. The association expressed its thanks for the approval by the President of the P17 million bill for the teachers' salary differentials. Included in the report was the request of the association for the construction of irrigation projects, the distribution of radios in the barrios, the construction of barrio roads, the distribution of Naric rice during the planting season, the construction of hospitals, and the employment of the jobless.

The President thanked the association for honoring him and at the same time welcomed them to Malacañang. He said that he knew the accomplishments of the PTA's and that they deserved the commendation of the Filipino people.

Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., and Rep. Jacobo Gonzales of Laguna headed the officials present during the ceremonies.

EARLIER in the afternoon, the President received in his study room former President and Mrs. Sergio Osmeña, who paid a social call on the Chief Executive. The Osmeñas are on vacation in Manila.

The President also received Dr. Samuel F. Stagg of Palawan, who also paid a social call.

In the evening the President swore in Isagani Manuel, an MPM and youth leader in Pasay City, as a full-fledged member of the Nacionalista Party.

June 4.—THE President spent a quiet day today, working on pending state papers. He did not receive callers.

Press Secretary J. V. Cruz saw the President twice today. The Chief Executive also conferred with Legislative Secretary Jose C. Nable to discuss the bills which passed Congress in the last regular session.

Late in the afternoon, the President went on a drive around Manila. He was accompanied by Maj. Pat Garcia, his aide.

THE following statement was released today by Malacañang:

The President today reiterated his support of the stand taken by Ambassador Felino Neri in withholding disclosure at this stage of the details of the latter's report regarding the settlement of the reparations question. The Chief Executive stressed that the premature revelation of this information might adversely affected the outcome of the efforts of both countries to finally reach agreement on the reparations issue and nullify the progress made in Japan by the chief Philippine negotiator towards the above end.

Ambassador Neri continued to remain silent on the result of his mission and repeated that any announcement on the matter will have to come from the President. Until such time, any reports on this matter will be purely speculative. Malacañang and Ambassador Neri emphatically denied being the source of the story appearing today in the metropolitan morning dailies purporting to reveal the details of his report.

Ambassador Neri conferred with the President early this morning.

June 5.—UPON waking up this morning, the President greeted his only son, Ramon, Jr., on the occasion of his 17th birthday this day.

The President and Ramon, Jr., together with the First Lady and younger daughter Milagros, heard early morning mass at the Malacañang chapel.

After the mass, the President had breakfast with his family. He then read the morning papers and later on he and Mrs. Magsaysay boarded a car and drove around the city, spending most of the time along Dewey Boulevard. Presidential Aide Maj. Pat Garcia accompanied the President and the First Lady.

The President ate his luncheon with Mrs. Magsaysay in Malacañang while Ramon, Jr., had a simple luncheon at the Malacañang Park with a few friends and relatives. It was a very quiet and simple birthday luncheon.

AFTER taking a short rest in the afternoon, the President worked on state papers and received Press Secretary J. V. Cruz and newly designated Customs Commissioner Manuel P. Manahan with whom he conferred.

THE President today designated Manuel P. Manahan, chairman of the Presidential Complaints and Action Committee, as acting commissioner of customs.

Manahan was recommended for the position by Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez. Hernandez had urged the President to designate another customs commissioner in lieu of Finance Undersecretary Jose P. Trinidad, who is concurrently discharging the duties of that office, because he needs Trinidad back in the department.

Isaac Sayoc, former collector of customs, had been nominated and confirmed customs commissioner during the last session of Congress. However, Sayoc, who is abroad, never took his oath of office or assumed the position. He has applied for retirement.

Prior to joining the government service as PCAC chairman upon President Magsaysay's assumption of office, Manahan was active in the newspaper profession as publisher of the *Bagong Buhay*. He is on leave from his paper.

Manahan will assume his post Monday, June 6, while Trinidad will immediately return to the Department of Finance.

IN the evening, President Magsaysay wired President Dwight D. Eisenhower in Washington, D. C., extending his own and the Filipino people's greetings to the U. S. Chief Executive and the U. S. Government on the occasion of the concert series of the Symphony of the Air opening tomorrow.

The world-famed symphony orchestra, which used to be the NBC Symphony Orchestra under Arturo Toscanini, is touring the Far East partly through the support and assistance of the U. S. Government. President Magsaysay sent greetings to President Eisenhower “and all those in your government who have helped to make this memorable event possible.”

The Chief Executive also expressed the hope that “the future will bring increased cultural exchange between our two peoples to strengthen the bonds of understanding and friendship between them.”

June 6.—THIS morning, the President received officers of the Drug Association of the Philippines who suggested amendments to House Bill No. 4264 passed at the last session of Congress so as to include certain imported drugs among the items to be exempted from the 17 per cent exchange tax.

Accompanied by Hospitals Director Tranquilino Elicaño, the druggists informed the President that the law exempting these drugs would expire at the end of the month and unless it was renewed, the consuming public would be forced to pay from 25 to 30 per cent more for the imported medicines.

The President assured the group that he would consider the proposed amendments seriously for possible inclusion in the agenda of the projected special session of Congress. The group was headed by Dr. P. L. Katigbak, association president.

The Chief Executive received callers at his executive office from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

A large group of Liberal Party leaders from Concepcion, Tarlac, who had affiliated to the Nacionalista Party took their oath before President Magsaysay this morning. The group was accompanied to Malacañang by Rep. Constancio Castañeda and Gov. Arsenio Lugal.

THE President issued Executive Order No. 118, creating a committee to screen and aid deserving squatters and new settlers in Mindoro Oriental. The order was issued in the course of his conference with Agriculture Undersecretary Jaime Ferrer.

Teodoro Handaan, a native Ifugao who came to Malacañang in G-strings, appealed for the payment of a tract of land belonging to 10 families living in his locality. He told the President that the land had been expropriated by the government in 1949 but no payment for it had as yet been made.

Among the callers were Gov. Rafael Lazatin of Pampanga, who sought the release of funds for the construction of a highway; Rep. Domocao Alonto and Gov. Salvador Lluch of Lanao, who requested the reassessment of private lands in their province; Gov. Juan Alberto of Catanduanes; and Rep. Wenceslao Lagumbay of Laguna.

IN the afternoon, the President received and conferred briefly with Democratic Party leaders.

LATER the President gave a press conference to Malacañang newsmen. He announced at this conference that his administration is going all out to solve the distribution problem in agriculture by pushing through a more rapid organization of the FACOMA (Farmers' Cooperative Marketing Association) throughout the country.

The President pointed out that one of the biggest problems facing Philippine agriculture today is that the farmer is not getting a fair price for his produce. He indicated that the situation stems largely from the fact that our farmers are not organized to handle the marketing of their produce.

As a consequence, the President said, tremendous profits are being reaped from this situation by middlemen who buy the produce of the poor farmers at ridiculously low prices and sell it at enormous profits in the towns and cities.

THE President also announced that he has accepted the resignation of Eligio Tavanlar from his various government positions in order that he may devote all his time to the supervision of the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Administration projects.

The President indicated he will ask other government officials to relinquish their other positions in the different boards in order that they can devote more of their time to their jobs.

IN the evening, the President and Mrs. Magsaysay headed the distinguished cosmopolitan audience which attended the first performance of the Symphony of the Air at the Mapua Tech Memorial Hall.

June 7.—IN this morning's breakfast conferences in Malacañang, President Magsaysay got Nacionalista and Democratic Party leaders to agree to preserve the political partnership between the two parties. He told the NP and DP leaders he was in favor of preserving the alliance among all political groups which helped him win the 1953 elections.

"It is a question of conscience, justice, and fair play," the President said.

How the NP-DP partnership will be maintained will be determined in a meeting tomorrow noon between Sen. Jose P. Laurel and Sen. Fernando Lopez, acting DP president, at the Manila Hotel. They will work out an agreement as to whether the NP-DP alliance would be based on a coalition or a fusion.

NP and DP leaders also agreed to include the Magsaysay-for-President-Movements in the political *entente cordiale*. But Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., NP president, proposed that the Citizens Party be excluded from the conglomeration.

President Magsaysay and other NP leaders agreed to leave the matter entirely to the Laurel-Lopez meeting tomorrow.

The following attended the NP-DP breakfast conferences at Malacañang this morning:

Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., Sens. Cipriano Primicias, Claro M. Recto, Gil J. Puyat, Jose P. Laurel, Edmundo B. Cea, Emmanuel Pelaez, Fernando Lopez, Lorenzo Sumulong, and Ruperto Kangleon; Reps. Daniel Z. Romualdez of Leyte, Arturo M. Tolentino of Manila, Ismael Veloso of Davao, Jose J. Roy of Tarlac, Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo, and Lucas Paredes of Abra; and Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma and OEC Administrator Alfredo Montelibano.

THE President today suspended from office for one month Mayor Jose Suntay, Jr., of Hagonoy, Bulacan, for abuse of discretion in issuing a warrant of arrest. The mayor was warned that repetition of the same offense in the future will be dealt with more severely.

The Hagonoy mayor was charged by Bulacan Gov. Alejo Santos on four counts. Three counts, however, were dismissed owing to lack of evidence. The suspension of Mayor Suntay was for one month in addition to his preventive suspension by the provincial governor of Bulacan from March to April, 1954.

The Malacañang investigator found that Mayor Suntay erred in issuing a warrant of arrest for a certain Maximo Macale for violating a municipal ordinance. Mayor Suntay had been suspended by Gov. Santos from March to April, 1954, but was suspended anew by the President for one month. His new suspension will be effective upon his receipt of the suspension order.

Mayor Suntay was exonerated of the charges of alleged oppression, unauthorized practice of law, and denial of freedom of assembly. A fifth charge instituted by Gov. Santos against Mayor Suntay was withdrawn by the governor.

BEFORE issuing the order of suspension, the President met a 500-man delegation from Quezon City petitioning him to include in the agenda of the special session a bill making the positions of mayor, vice-mayor, and councilors of Quezon City elective.

The delegation, headed by Mrs. Aurora Dizon and Ramon Correa, claimed that several delegations from Quezon City had been sent to Congress during the last regular session. They also told the President that approximately 80,000 voters in Quezon City were in favor of elective city officials.

The President assured the delegation that he would take up their request with Congress leaders. He said that he would work for the inclusion of a bill making the municipal officials of Quezon City elective in the coming special session. The President said, "Your problem is my problem. I am interested in democracy in action, as you are."

Among the other callers of the President after the NP-DP breakfast conference were: Gov. Juan Alberto of Catanduanes and his delegation, Reps. Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur and Manuel Cases of La Union, and Acting Gov. Conrado Estrella of Pangasinan.

IN the afternoon, the President was made an honorary member of the Symphony of the Air Orchestra.

Don Gillis, president of the Symphony Foundation of America, placed a beribboned honorary membership medal on the President at a simple ceremony held at the Malacañang study room.

Present during the ceremony were members of the board of directors of the Foundation; namely, Herbert Fuchs, Phillip Sklan, Edward Vito, Paul Renzi, Jr., Nicholas Moldavan, Leon Frengut, and Michael Krasnopolsky. Also present were A. Strok, impresario of the symphony orchestra, and Alfredo Lozano, local impresario.

Afterwards, Gillis told the President in a humorous vein, "Now, Mr. President, as honorary member of the Symphony orchestra, you are entitled to conduct the orchestra."

The President was presented with several copies of the recordings of the Symphony Orchestra's *Prelude to Die Meistersinger* by Wagner, *Roman Carnival Overture* by Berlioz, and *Nutcracker Suite* by Tchaikovsky. Gillis said these records had been made of the orchestra's renditions of these musical pieces in New York without any conductor.

The President said that he and Mrs. Magsaysay had enjoyed very much the gala concert held Monday night at the Mapua Institute of Technology auditorium. He said the performance was amazing. He paid high tribute to the manner Thor Johnson, the conductor, wielded the baton.

The President then invited his guests to his bedroom where he played for them the records which they had given him. The visitors thanked the President for his hospitality and showed admiration for his love for music.

Earlier in the afternoon, the President received Archbishop Julio Rosales of Cebu, who paid a courtesy call.

June 8.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning gave a despedida breakfast in honor of Maj. Gen. Robert M. Cannon, JUSMAG chief who is scheduled to return to the United States on Saturday to assume a new post at the Pentagon after completing a two-year tour of duty in the Philippines.

During the affair, the President presented Gen. and Mrs. Cannon with an album containing souvenir pictures of the general and his lady during their visits to Malacañang since 1953. The photos had been compiled by Felix Manuel, Malacañang chief photographer.

Col. William M. McNown, chief of JUSMAG air section, will act as JUSMAG chief until Gen. Cannon's successor is appointed. Present at the breakfast were Mrs. Magsaysay, Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug, U. S. Ambassador

and Mrs. Homer Ferguson, Lieut. Gen. and Mrs. Jesus Vargas, Admiral and Mrs. Hugh Goodwin, Gen. and Ralph Lovett, and Col. and Mrs. McNown.

AFTER breakfast, the President repaired to his private study where he signed 10 bills passed during the last session of Congress. He also issued Proclamation No. 163, withdrawing from disposition to settlers a 200-hectare area from the Buenavista estate and reserving it for the site of a national agricultural high school in Pinaod, San Ildofonso, Bulacan.

These 10 bills brought to 41 the number of bills so far acted upon by the President of the 212 passed during the last regular session of Congress. Of the 41 measures, 39 were approved and two vetoed. The President has up to June 18 within which to consider 171 more bills.

THE Chief Executive presided over the meeting of his Council of State from 10:15 a.m. to 12 noon. Present at the meeting were Ex-President Sergio Osmeña, Sr., Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Senate Majority Floor Leader Cipriano Primicias, House Majority Floor Leader Arturo M. Tolentino, Senators Jose P. Laurel and Lorenzo M. Tañada, Alfonso Ponce Enrile, Juan O. Chioco, Filemon Rodriguez, Gov. Decoroso Rosales (president of the Governors and City Mayors League), and members of the Cabinet.

The Council of State, the highest advisory and consultative body of the government, in its meeting this morning, approved the Administration's huge public works program costing P100,585,600 to be financed from the bond issue.

The breakdown of the public works program follows: public building projects, P16,962,000; waterworks, P26,486,000; irrigation systems, P22,830,000; artesian wells, P2,247,600; port works, P7,060,000; and roads and bridges, P25,000,000.

The Council of State also approved the Japanese Government's offer of \$92 per ton for the salvage of sunken vessels in Philippine waters. Payment for this salvage work will be charged to the reparations payment to be made by Japan.

The agreement to formalize the acceptance of the Japanese offer will be signed soon by Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia and Toshio Urabe, chief of the Japanese mission in the Philippines. It was observed that the approval of the Japanese salvage offer was one step further in the settlement of the long standing reparations question with Japan.

President Magsaysay presented to the Council of State the blueprint for the public works program of the Administration to be financed under the bond issue. It was prepared by Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa.

The Council of State approved the public works projects with the understanding that not more than 20 per cent of every bond issue should go to non-self-liquidating projects. It was agreed that no project from the bond issue should be authorized and started unless previously certified by the finance secretary and the public works secretary, to the effect that: (1) in the self-liquidating projects estimated receipts will be sufficient to meet amortization and interest payments; and (2) in non-self-liquidating projects, amortization and interest payments should be borne by the yearly appropriation from the general fund.

This agreement was reached after Sen. Lorenzo M. Tañada brought out that according to law not more than 20 per cent of every bond issue should be appropriated for non-self-liquidating projects. The Senator also wanted to make it clear that the other projects should be self-liquidating. At this point, Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta explained that the municipal councils of towns where waterworks would be constructed had already agreed to pass ordinances raising water rates in order to insure income from the waterworks systems.

At this instance, Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez suggested that the budget commissioner make a schedule of rates for the payment of the sinking funds in the budget to insure the payment of the bonds.

The President expressed his desire that all road projects be started simultaneously throughout the country. This was deemed necessary because if this was not done, the Government would be paying interest for idle funds from the bond issue.

Secretary Orosa informed the Council that the amortization and interest on the P25 million allotted for the construction of roads and bridges was guaranteed from the share of the provinces and municipalities in the gasoline fund and motor vehicle fund.

Vice-President Garcia recommended to the Council of State the acceptance of the Japanese Government's offer of \$92 per ton for the salvage of sunken ships and vessels in the Philippines. Garcia explained that this last offer was a reduction by 19 per cent of the original offer of \$114 per ton, which was the amount the Japanese Government had awarded to Japanese companies engaged in salvage work.

It was further explained by the Vice-President that the final Japanese offer of \$92 per ton would mean a lowering by some \$2 million from the original offer. It was estimated that at the first offer of \$114 per ton, the total payment would amount to \$8 million as against the \$6 million total computed at \$92 per ton.

The Vice-President said that it was wise to accept the Japanese offer, as the ships were fast corroding and this would result in less amount of scrap metals to be salvage. Besides, he said, there was urgent need to clear all harbors of these sunken ships which were a menace to shipping and Navigation.

Earlier in the morning, before the Council of State meeting, Ambassador Felino Neri, who had been negotiating the salvage question with the Japanese Government, had conferred with the President and then with the Vice-President separately. Neri said that originally the Japanese Government had offered to reduce their \$114 price by 15 per cent, then 17½ per cent, then 18.75 per cent, and finally 19 per cent.

During the discussion, Senate President Rodriguez inquired if no Filipino company would undertake the salvage work. He was informed that there was none.

June 9.—THE President today administered the oath of office to Minister Manuel Escudero and Brig. Gen. Antonio V. Sayson, both from Bicol region, before a large crowd of political leaders and admirers of the appointees and ranking Army officers.

Brig. Gen. Sayson, special investigator of the Nueva Ecija murder cases, was inducted after Minister Escudero. President Magsaysay and Mrs. Sayson pinned the stars on both shoulders of the new brigadier general.

Among those present at the induction ceremonies, held at the reception hall of Malacañang were Senator Edmundo B. Cea; Reps. Pio Duran, Justino Nuyda, Vicente Peralta; AFP Chief of Staff Lieut. Gen. Vargas, AFP Vice-Chief of Staff Brig. Gen. Eulogio Balao; Govs. Juan Alberto of Catanduanes, Juan Triviño of Camarines Sur, PCAC Vice-Chairman Nick Maronilla Seva; and relatives and friends of the newly-inducted officials and other ranking Army officers.

After the induction, the President received United States Sen. Everett Dirksen, who was accompanied to Malacañang by Ambassador Homer Ferguson.

Arriving on time to see the large crowd that witnessed the induction ceremonies, Sen. Dirksen expressed wonder at the number of people the President received. "I marvel at your stamina in seeing so many people," the U. S. Senator told the President.

Sen. Dirksen and Ambassador Ferguson were met by the President at the door to the study room. He conducted them to his desk where they conversed for about 15 minutes.

The President invited Sen. Dirksen and Ambassador Ferguson for breakfast tomorrow. Sen. Dirksen is scheduled to leave tomorrow noon for the United States. Before parting with the President, Sen. Dirksen said: "I have heard a lot about you, sir, and I wish you every success."

EARLIER, the President received the board members and project superintendents of NARRA who called together with NARRA Manager Eligio Tavanlar. The Chief Executive asked all the project superintendents about their respective problems in their resettlement projects. He urged them to exert more efforts and said that the administration "cannot afford to fail in these projects because we promised land to the landless."

THE President also received the employees of the land tenancy division of the Court of Industrial Relations who petitioned that they be integrated into the proposed Agrarian Court office. The tenancy employees were accompanied by CIR Presiding Judge Modesto Castillo and Agricultural Tenancy Commissioner Guillermo Santos.

The President assured them that they would all be integrated into the proposed Agrarian Court office. "You will all be taken in first before we employ some people from the outside," he said. The bill creating the Agrarian Court had been passed by Congress in its regular session and is now awaiting signature by the President.

FIFTY-SIX volumes of the Holy Bible in 50 different languages and dialects were presented to the President by members of the Philippine branch of the American Bible Society. The Chief Executive thanked the members of the American Bible Society for their valuable gift.

Members of the society who presented the bibles to the President were Dr. Gumercindo Garcia, Dr. Harry Fonger, Bishop Norman Binsted, Cipriano Navarro, Leonardo Palilla, George Dungan, Samuel Casel, and Rev. Jose Yap.

OTHER callers of the President were the Manila NP vice-mayorality candidate, Jesus Marcos Roces, Don Ramon Roces, and Marcos Roces, who invited the Chief Executive to the special showing of M-G-M's *Interrupted Melody* at the inauguration of the new Ideal Theater on June 16.

The President also received James J. Dutler, vice-president of Helene Curtis International, and Michael and Leon Goldenberg, president and vice-president, respectively, of the Philippine Industrial Export Associates. The American business executives informed the President about their industrial expansion plans.

A large group of barrio lieutenants from Candelaria, Quezon, also called on the President and requested aid for roads and waterworks. The barrio lieutenants were accompanied by Rep. Manuel Enverga.

Members of the Home Financing Commission and the Philippine Tobacco Administration also saw the President on routine matters. They were accompanied by Navy Commodore Jose Anrada and Economic Coordination Administrator Alfredo Montelibano.

Bataan Gov. Adelmo Camacho headed a group of farmers and fishermen from the town of Pilar who sought help from the President. Acting on their complaint that the bay around Pilar was prohibited fishing ground because it had been leased by Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta, the President said that the bay was no longer leased and that the fishermen could fish in it.

Other callers of the President included Sen. Justiniano S. Montano, Govs. Dominador Chipeco of Laguna, Damaso Samonte of Ilocos Norte, and Francisco Infantado of Mindoro Oriental.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today ordered a re-study of the allocation of power to be generated by the Ambuklao hydroelectric plant for the purpose of extending its service to the Northern Luzon provinces.

The President gave the order to Economic Coordination Administrator Alfredo Montelibano following his conference with Reps. Floro S. Crisologo of Ilocos Sur, Paulino Alonzo of Cagayan, and Erasmo Cruz of Bulacan,

chairman of the House committee on government enterprises. The three solons called at Malacañang this morning to request that cheap power be made available in the northern provinces to encourage cottage industries there.

During their call, the President asked Rep. Cruz to study a pending bill in Congress providing for increased capitalization of the National Power Corporation and authorizing this government entity to extend the Ambuklao power lines to Northern Luzon. He said that the growth of cottage industries would relieve the unemployment problem in that locality.

The President started the day with a breakfast conference with Acting Gov. Conrado Estrella of Pangasinan, who reported on the public works program of his province. Then he proceeded to his private study where he held a series of conferences with various assistants on pending matters.

The President signed H. B. No. 4327—S. B. No. 357, extending the life of the Government Survey and Reorganization Commission up to December 31, 1956. The bill which became R. A. No. 1241 also appropriated an additional P300,000 to enable the commission to carry out its functions.

The commission was charged with the study of the present organization and methods of operation of the executive branch of the government to determine what changes are necessary to best accomplish its objectives. The President approved the bill this morning after consultations with Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona and Code Commissioner Enrique M. Fernando.

MALACAÑANG this day explained that a standing order from the Pentagon prevented the Philippine Government from awarding the Philippine Legion of Honor medal to departing JUSMAG Chief Maj. Gen. Robert M. Cannon.

Malacañang, upon learning that no medal had been awarded to Gen. Cannon at the parade given in his honor at Camp Murphy last Tuesday, checked with the Department of National Defense.

The department said a standing order from the Pentagon in Washington, D. C., prohibits JUSMAG officers in any country from receiving decorations in connection with the performance of their duties. DND officials said that Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug and AFP Chief of Staff Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas had requested the Pentagon for an exception in the case of Gen. Cannon but the Pentagon had answered that it could not make an exception to the order.

June 10.—WITHOUT the fanfare and royalties which had attended other Presidents' affairs in previous administrations, President and Mrs. Magsaysay celebrated their 22nd wedding anniversary in Malacañang this day.

The President and the First Lady reminisced on their 22 years of marriage over a simple luncheon in a truly Magsaysay style. A lechon which was given by a family friend provided the main course. It was the only wedding gift the President accepted on his 22nd wedding anniversary.

EARLIER this morning, the President had breakfast with visiting U. S. Sen. Everett Dirksen, who recently arrived in Manila in the course of an observation tour in the Far East. Sen. Dirksen conveyed to President Magsaysay the best wishes of President Dwight D. Eisenhower of the United States. Also at the breakfast were U. S. Ambassador Homer Ferguson and Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez.

AFTER breakfast, the President proceeded to his study where he studied a pile of pending state papers. Then he boarded his car and motored to the Far Eastern University, where he addressed a national convention of the Philippine Association of College and University Professors.

The President addressed the PACUP at the opening day of its convention at the FEU auditorium. He exhorted members of the associations to help fan down politics which, he said, "slows down the process of government."

“The political game is exciting to those who participate in it,” he said, “but is played chiefly for the benefit of those individuals.”

The President urged his listeners to aid the government by shunning away from politics. “It must not be permitted to take the place of the duties and functions which the public servant is paid to perform,” he said.

The President lauded the efforts of the professors for “devotion to your task and sincerity in your efforts.”

“It is too well known that your profession is noted for unselfish performance, that there has never been adequate reward for the responsibility you bear and the social contribution you make,” he added.

He explained that as President of the country, he expects the university professors to mould citizens who “must contribute their intelligence to the common pool.”

“Under your guidance,” he said, “the country will have a free people who have chosen to live under a system of popular government—under a democracy.”

I ask you, “as moulders of the minds and character of our youth to give us citizens of informed and critical judgment. In doing so you will realize the noblest aspiration of your profession, and your nation will realize the fullest flowering of its heritage,” the President concluded. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, 2848–2850, for the full text of the President’s speech)

RETURNING to Malacañang shortly after 11 a.m. the Chief Executive received Mr. and Mrs. John Spindler, who called to pay their respects. Spindler, vice-president of the Dale Carnegie Institute, is returning to the U. S. soon after giving a one-month Dale Carnegie course at the Manila Hotel to local businessmen and professionals.

Other callers included Narciso Reyes, Jr. vice-president and plant manager of the firm bearing his father’s name. He presented the President with a copy of the latter’s pictures laminated on wood. The laminated color photo is one of the new products of the Narciso Reyes, Inc.

AT noon, the President received British Ambassador Frank S. Gibbs, who called to say goodbye prior to his return to his home country after completing a four-year tour of duty in the Philippines.

Accompanied to Malacañang by Jose S. Estrada, chief protocol officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Gibbs informed the President that he was retiring from public life after serving his government in various capacities for more than 35 years.

Sir Gibbs will be succeeded here by George Lisle Clutton, who is scheduled to arrive about the end of July. Granville Ramage, first secretary of the British Embassy in Manila, will act as charge d’Affaires until the new ambassador arrives.

AMBASSADOR Carlos P. Romulo has reported to President Magsaysay that he was confident of favorable U. S. Congress action on the Laurel-Langley agreement, a Malacañang spokesman said today.

Press Secretary J. V. Cruz said that Romulo, who is President Magsaysay’s special personal envoy to Washington, D. C., said in a wire to the Chief Executive that he was hopeful that the U. S. Congress would resume hearings on the Laurel-Langley agreement next week.

Romulo said the apparent delay in the U. S. House of Representatives ways and means committee’s action on the agreement was due to the fact that two other items had been given priority listing over the Philippine measure. These two items, he said, had been earmarked for priority hearing long before the Laurel-Langley agreement. Romulo also said he was working closely together with James M. Langley in explaining the provisions of the agreement to the U. S. Congress.

The tenor of Romulo's report to President Magsaysay was one of optimism that the U. S. Congress will ultimately approve the agreement.

MALACAÑANG released this day Ambassador Homer Ferguson's letter expressing U. S. President Eisenhower's appreciation for President Magsaysay's greetings on the eve of the opening of the Symphony of the Air concert series.

The text of Ferguson's letter follows:

"I have this day received instructions from the President of the United States to extend to you his warmest appreciation for your telegram of June 6, in which you convey the greetings of Your Excellency and of your people on the eve of the opening of the Symphony of the Air concert series. The President of the United States joins with Your Excellency in expressing the hope that the future will, indeed, bring increased cultural exchange between our two peoples and by so doing strengthen the bonds of understanding and friendship between them.

"Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest esteem and consideration."

IN the afternoon, the President held a "gripe session" with Liberal Party leaders.

LP President Eugenio Perez, who headed the delegation, complained to the President about the suspension of municipal and provincial officials belonging to the Liberal Party. He also brought to the attention of the President the killing of Marcos Ysalina of Gingoog, Misamis Oriental, a relative and alleged political leader of suspended Gov. Paciencia Ysalina.

The President said that Malacañang would speedily liquidate all administrative cases against local officials, taking into account whatever final decision the Supreme Court would make on the matter of the scope of the Office of the President's power of supervision over municipal officials. Regarding the killing of Marcos Ysalina, the President said that he had ordered two days ago AFP Vice-Chief of Staff Brig. Gen. Eulogio Balao, to look into the matter.

Regarding the reinstatement of suspended Liberal Party municipal officials, Malacañang said that the present ruling on the subject announced in the second Villena case, gave the Office of the President concurrent jurisdiction with the provincial board over municipal officials. However, doubt as to the continuing effectivity of the ruling now exists in view of the recent case of Mendano vs. Silvosa wherein emphasis was laid by the Supreme Court on the specific Administrative Code provisions giving direct supervision over municipal officials to the provincial board subject to appeal to the Office of the President.

Present at the meeting aside from LP President Perez were Sen. Quintin Paredes, former Reps. Manuel Rojas, Marcos Calo, and Sebastian Moll.

June 11.—THE President today was informed by Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez that the man who died in Gingoog, Misamis Oriental, was not Marcos Ysalina but Marcos Salina and that he was not murdered but was found drowned near the wharf of Gingoog on May 3, 1953.

The President ordered the investigation of the death of the man whom Gov. Paciencia Ysalina of Misamis Oriental had identified as his relative and political leaders. Gov. Ysalina claimed that the man was murdered by the Nacionalistas in his province as part of a persecution campaign against the Liberals.

Sen. Pelaez showed the President a telegram from Acting Gov. Vicente de Lara saying that records from the chief of police of Gingoog and the PC command in Misamis Oriental showed that the body was that of Marcos Salina and not Marcos Ysalina. He added it was found floating near the wharf of Gingoog on May 3, 1953, during the incumbency of suspended Gov. Ysalina.

The death of Marcos Salina was one of the several alleged persecution cases that Liberal Party leaders had cited to the President in their “gripe session” with him last Friday.

Before seeing Sen. Pelaez, the President received Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, Sens. Fernando Lopez and Lorenzo Sumulong, and Rep. Jose Roy, who informed him about the progress of the integration talks between the Nacionalistas and the Democrats.

Another caller on the President was Walter Hendl, conductor of the visiting Symphony of the Air, who was accompanied by Alberto Cacnio, president of the Arts Council of the Philippines. Hendl told the President, “Your people love music very much.”

The President also received two teachers from the Celedonio Salvador Elementary School in Paco who complained that they were being oppressed by their principal teacher, Mrs. Milagros del Pilar. The two teachers were Mrs. Lourdes Nepomuceno and Mrs. Erotida Beltran-Cayosa

The Chief Executive directed the PCAC, which has been investigating the case, to hasten its decision so that the two teachers could get justice. The two teachers filed their complaint with the PCAC a few months ago.

A COMMITTEE to advise the Commissioner of Customs on any immediate action to be taken on importations violating the Anti-Dumping Law was created this day at a meeting in the office of Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno.

The meeting was attended by Secretary of Finance Jaime Hernandez, Governor Cuaderno, Acting Commissioner of Customs Manuel P. Manahan, and Col. Jaime Velasquez, technical adviser to the President on customs matters. The meeting, which had been ordered by the President, was called to find ways of enforcing the Anti-Dumping Law and coordinating the work of the agencies handling the allocation of dollars, importations, and customs.

The committee formed at the meeting will be composed of a representative each from the Central Bank, the Department of Finance, and the Bureau of Commerce.

The President today signed into law Senate Bill No. 223, making the flag ceremony compulsory in all educational institutions. The new law requires all educational institutions to observe daily a flag ceremony which shall be simple and dignified and shall include the playing or singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

The law also provides that failure of any educational institution to observe this requirement shall subject the educational institution concerned and its head to public censure as an administrative punishment which shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation.

Second failure to observe the new law shall cause the cancellation of the recognition or permit of the private educational institution responsible for the failure.

The secretary of education is authorized by the new law to issue or cause to be issued rules and regulations for the proper conduct of the flag ceremony.

IN the evening, the President signed into law H. B. No. 416, amending Republic Act 836 which provides for the construction, reconstruction, improvement, and/or repair of public elementary school buildings. He also signed other bills.

H. B. No. 416 appropriates the sum of P40 million to carry out the provisions of Republic Act 836 corresponding to the fiscal years 1953–54 and 1954–55.

The budget commissioner informed the President that of the P40 million, P20 million corresponding to the fiscal year 1953–54 had already been included in Republic Act 1200, known as the Public Works Act. He recommended

that the bill be approved on the understanding that actual releases from the balance of P20 million should be subject to the availability of funds.

June 12.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay decided today to award special citations to the Symphony of the Air and those who played major roles in its concert series here as a token of the Filipino people's appreciation for their performances during the past week.

The President's action was announced by Press Secretary J. V. Cruz at the intermission during the orchestra's final performance this afternoon at the Mapua Tech. auditorium.

The citations will be awarded to A. Strok, impresario of the orchestra's Asian tour; Don Gillis, president of the Symphony Foundation of America, the orchestra's parent organization; Dr. Thor Johnson and Dr. Walter Hendl, the guest conductors; and to the orchestra itself.

The President decided on these citations, Cruz said, "as a token and expression of the Filipino people's gratitude and appreciation for this memorable concert series." Cruz added they were to be given to "men who have given us so much joy and satisfaction during this past week."

Actual presentation of the special citations will be made in the United States upon the orchestra's return home, with Philippine diplomatic representatives in that country representing the President. It is hoped that "appropriate occasions" will present themselves in the United States for the proper presentation of the awards.

THE President also directed this day his legal advisers to bring up to date the studies on all cases of suspended municipal officials, pending final clarification by the Supreme Court on the scope of the Office of the President's power of supervision over municipal officials.

Malacañang said the President is ready to liquidate immediately all such cases depending on the final clarification by the Supreme Court.

ABOUT 10 a.m., the President boarded his *Cessna* plane for a brief visit to his hometown, Castillejos, Zambales. He returned to Malacañang early in the evening. His aide, Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo, accompanied him on his week-end trip.

June 13.—THIS morning the President directed Director of Lands Zoilo Castrillo to file compulsory registration proceedings against all land claimants in Compostela, Davao, in order to establish ownership of the lands. The directive was prompted by a telegram from settlers in the town site of Nabunturan, Compostela, who complained that they were threatened with ejection by a person who claimed the whole town site as her private property.

Mayor Lauro Arabejo of Compostela personally reported the land trouble in his town to the President. He was accompanied to Malacañang by Director Castrillo. The President's order to file compulsory registration proceedings against all land claimants in Compostela was to clarify whether the lands were private-owned or public property.

ANOTHER mayor who saw the President was Vicente Ferrer of Tumauni, Isabela, who reported the capture of Huk Commander Magaling in his municipality. He told the Chief Executive that his once Huk-infested town is now peaceful. He recommended that the reward for the capture of Commander Magaling be given immediately to the informant.

THE President also received Dr. K. Shrirharani, a member of the Indian Parliament, who paid a courtesy call. He spent about five minutes with the President discussing the domestic situation in the Philippines and India.

Among the other callers of the President were Sen. Francisco Delgado; Reps. Samuel Reyes, Apolinario Apacible, Erasmo Cruz, Rogaciano Mercado, Felipe Garduque, Guillermo Sanchez, Daniel Romualdez, Vicente Peralta, and

Jose Corpuz; Govs. Juan Alberto of Catanduanes, Juan Carbonell of La Union, Jorge Abad of Batanes, Francisco Infantado of Mindoro Oriental, and Felix Fidel Paz of Marinduque; and Mayor Jose Villena of Makati, Rizal.

IN the afternoon, the President received newspapermen for the weekly *merienda* conference.

June 14.—AT a breakfast conference this morning with leaders of Congress, the President won the support of his guests to the \$800 million reparations proposal. Leaders of the coalesced majority party accepted as a matter of general principle the \$800 million tentative agreement on reparations, although some expressed fear the Philippines was not amply protected from the “risks” involved in the agreement.

At the Malacañang breakfast conference, Ambassador Felino Neri explained the proposed tentative agreement in details to the Congress leaders.

Neri gave the breakdown of the \$800 million agreement as follows:

\$550 million to be paid in capital goods, payable from 15 to 20 years;
\$30 million to be paid in services, payable from 15 to 20 years;
\$20 million to be paid in cash within five years; and
\$250 million payable in form of loans or investment funds.

Present at the conference which lasted from 8 to 10 a.m., were Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Speaker Jose Laurel, Jr., Senate Majority Floor Leader Cipriano Primicias, Speaker Protempore Daniel Z. Romualdez, House Majority Floor Leader Arturo M. Tolentino;

Senators Jose C. Zulueta, Lorenzo M. Tañada, Fernando Lopez, Emmanuel Pelaez, Claro M. Recto, Justiniano S. Montano, Mariano J. Cuenco, Edmundo B. Cea, Jose C. Locsin, Jose P. Laurel, Alejo Mabanag, Lorenzo Sumulong, and Francisco A. Delgado; Rep. Godofredo Ramos of Capiz, Ambassador Felino Neri (chief reparations negotiator), NEC Chairman Filemon C. Rodriguez, and Gov. Decoroso Rosales of Samar (president of the Governors and City Mayors League).

After the conference, the President received several callers. Among his visitors was Rep. Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo.

THE President today signed Senate Bill No. 142–House Bill No. 1638, creating the Court of Agrarian Relations for a more prompt and effective enforcement of all laws and regulations governing the relations between capital and labor on all agricultural lands.

The Agrarian Court shall consist of an executive judge and eight associate judges with the rank of judges of the court of first instance. The executive judge who shall receive an annual compensation of P11,000 and perform administrative functions shall have his seat in Manila and adjacent provinces while the associate judges who shall each receive an annual compensation of P10,000 shall have their seats in the capital of the province where each is assigned.

The court shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction over the entire Philippines to settle all questions involving the relationships and varying rights of persons in the cultivation and use of agricultural lands where one of the parties works the land. It shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the court of first instance over employer and farm employee or landlord and tenant involving violations of the usury law.

In creating the Agrarian Court, the bill which became Republic Act No. 1267 abolished the tenancy division of the Court of Industrial Relations. It appropriated the sum of P400,000 to cover salaries, per diems, and traveling expenses of the new court for the fiscal year 1955.

The President also approved House Bill No. 2981, making elective the position of mayor and vice-mayor of Pasay City, and House Bill No. 1542, directing the sale of a portion of the San Lazaro friar lands in Manila to actual occupants.

The Pasay City measure was signed by the President this morning in the presence of a delegation headed by Rep. Eulogio Rodriguez, Jr., of Rizal. The delegation included Mayor Enrique Manaloto of Pasay, Vice-Mayor Adolfo C. Santos, City Engineer Restituto Ascaño, and Isagani Manuel.

THE President this afternoon held a *merienda* conference with Liberal Party leaders with a view to rounding off all-party support of the Philippine stand on the reparations. Aside from LP President Eugenio Perez, Sens. Quintin Paredes and Enrique Magalona and Rep. Diosdado Macapagal were present at the conference. Ambassador Felino Neri and PHILCUSA Chairman Filemon Rodriguez were also in attendance.

The President was assured by Liberal Party President Perez of the opposition's desire for an early settlement of the reparations question so that the Philippines could resume normal relations with Japan.

Although the Liberal Party leaders agreed in principle to the \$800 million reparations formula as explained by Ambassador Neri, Rep. Perez requested a more detailed clarification of the \$250 million development or investment loan.

Rep. Macapagal said that the general outline of the \$550 million reparations and the \$250 million development or investment loan was a satisfactory basis for the final negotiations to be held in Manila.

Ambassador Neri said that he would sit down with PHILCUSA Chairman Rodriguez and prepare a detailed report on the \$250 million development loan.

June 15.—THIS morning, the President approved a plan submitted to him by the National Forestry Council for the beautification of the Luneta. The beautification consists of the planting of decorative trees all over the area from the Independence Memorial grandstand to Taft Avenue. The tree-planting project will be started on July 24 in connection with the observance of Arbor Week.

The beautification plan was presented to the President by officers of the national arbor week committee, including Roberto Villanueva, executive chairman of the committee, Education Undersecretary Martin Aguilar, Jr., and Nicolas P. Lansingan

BECAUSE of the Cabinet meeting scheduled at 10 a.m., the President received very few callers.

Thirty Baptist missionaries representing some 6,000 churches all over the U. S. called to play their respects following their recent arrival in Manila on their way to London, Britain, where they will attend a world convention. With Dr. Ralph M. Johnson as spokesman, the delegation said they wanted to express their appreciation for the way President Magsaysay is upholding the ideals of liberty and religious freedom in this part of the world.

Other callers this morning included Sen. Justiniano S. Montano, Rep. Jose T. Cajulis of Cavite, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, and former Gov. Emilio P. Naval of Bataan.

THE Cabinet decided during its meeting today to strengthen the Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Financing Administration to enable it to curb middlemen's racketeering in the marketing of rural farm crops. The President and his Cabinet unanimously endorsed an expanded program of cooperative development and farm credit that is expected to stimulate general business activity by increasing the purchasing power of the farming population.

The President directed Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona to release P10 million to the ACCFA during the coming fiscal year. This is part of the P30 million appropriated by Republic Act No. 990 as the government's subscription to the ACCFA's revolving capital.

The President also signed House Bill No. 4214, authorizing the ACCFA administrator to accept savings and time deposits from members of cooperative associations and to pay interests for such deposits at a maximum rate of 2 ½ per cent.

The bill, which became Republic Act No. 1285, also authorized the establishment of the office of provincial ACCFA director in any municipality or city within the province to which the director is assigned. Under the previous set-up, the ACCFA director may only establish his office in the capital of the province to which he is assigned.

The President signed the bill into law in the course of the Cabinet meeting this morning where ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo explained the program of activities of his office. He said that the new law would aid him considerably, particularly in effecting needed improvements in the services of the ACCFA provincial offices.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay and his Cabinet at their regular meeting today adopted three measures designed to solve the conflict on the release of imported goods, with or without dollar allocations, which are being held up because of the provisions of the Anti-Dumping Law.

The Cabinet meeting took up several important matters requiring long discussions which kept the Cabinet in session for three hours, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Cabinet also approved:

(1) Additional importation of 50,000 metric tons of rice to fill requirements up to December 31, 1955, and a new presidential policy requiring the NARIC to sell rice at the lowest price to laborers and low-salaried employees, by means of the card system;

(2) A new policy in the sale of cement to enable people in far-flung areas where cement is not available or where prices are exorbitant, to place their orders directly with municipal treasurers.

THE President directed Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia to require suspended Consul Hortencio Brillantes of San Francisco, California, U. S. A., to appear before him (Garcia) within 48 hours to explain his side in connection with the re-examination of the charges filed against him. If Brillantes failed to comply with his order, the President said, he should be fired.

The Cabinet heard a spirited discussion between Vice-President Garcia and Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason as to which office, the Bureau of Immigration or the Department of Foreign Affairs, had authority to extend the stay of Chinese transients in the Philippines. The President formed a committee composed of Vice-President Garcia, Justice Secretary Tuason, and Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., to study the case and to submit their report at the next Cabinet meeting.

THE President expressed great concern over the state of confusion regarding the enforcement of the Anti-Dumping Law. He said that it was necessary that all the government agencies concerned in this matter should coordinate their efforts and act immediately in order not to prejudice importers who had been given dollar allocations but whose goods were being held up at the Bureau of Customs and were facing reshipment to the source of origin because of the provisions of the Anti-Dumping Law.

Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, who is also the chairman of the monetary board, explained that the confusion lay in the existence of two laws: (1) the Central Bank law governing the allocation of dollars, (2) the Anti-Dumping Law which requires that imported goods in competition with local products should be sent back to their source. He added that it was necessary to seek means in coordinating the activities of the afferent agencies of the government in charge of the enforcement of these two laws.

After a long discussion, the President, laid down the following regulations and policy applicable to both dollar and non-dollar importations, which were unanimously approved by the Cabinet:

(1) All dollar importations of articles, commodities, or products coming in direct competition with local agricultural or industrial products should be confiscated and ordered returned by the importers to the port of origin under the provisions of Republic Act No. 32, otherwise known as the Anti-Dumping Act.

(2) The Anti-Dumping Board should expedite the investigation and hearing of pending cases of impounded shipments of garlic, eyeglass frames, and cotton knitting yarns some of which have come in the nature of no-dollar importations. If warranted by the findings of the Anti-Dumping Board, those impounded shipments with dollar allocations may be released gradually and periodically by the Bureau of Customs authorities after consultation with the head of the department concerned, in quantities sufficient to meet the deficiencies in counterpart products locally produced.

(3) To forestall destructive competition with local agricultural and, or industrial products, the Central Bank shall henceforth:

(a) Withhold all dollar allocations in favor of local importers for the importation of all items or articles which are locally produced or manufactured in quantities sufficient to meet local yearly requirements; and

(b) Withhold similar dollar allocations for the importation of such products in quantities far in excess of the difference between local products and local demand, for any given period.

In this connection, the President said that it is necessary for the agencies concerned to first determine the quantity of the production of local agricultural and industrial products before allocating the dollars for the importation of similar products. The President directed that if necessary all general licenses be itemized based on previous dollar allocations. He added that existing procedures whereby agent banks are authorized to issue such general licenses should be modified.

Lastly, the Cabinet approved that the Anti-Dumping board should be given the opportunity to be represented in the consideration of such licenses in the light of this Cabinet directive, or should be given the opportunity to express its views and recommendations on the precise quantities of the goods to be imported. This will require a revision of the list of articles which will be allowed for importation. This revised list should be submitted first to the monetary board for screening.

June 16.—THE President today signed into law the bill revising the charter of the Philippine National Bank. Under the new charter, the paid-in capital stock of the PNB was increased from P10 million to not less than P110 million with an authorized capitalization of P200 million.

After signing the bill, the President directed the PNB to “readjust and liberalize its policies to bring its facilities closer to the people.” He also expressed the hope that the PNB “will play a much more vigorous role in the development of the country’s resources and will adequately respond to the financial needs of the people, particularly at the grass-roots level.”

The President took occasion to congratulate the officials and employees of the PNB on the event of the 39th anniversary of the bank today. He also instructed the PNB to expand its network of provincial branches and reduce its current rates of interest on loans consistent with safety of investment.

Among those present at the signing of the revised PNB charter, which was done at the executive office of the President, were Secretary of Finance Jaime Hernandez, Sen. Gil J. Puyat, Reps. Tobias Fornier of Antique and Pio Duran of Albay, Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, Sr., PNB Chairman Jose Paez, PNB Directors Mariano H. Laurel, Conrado M. Vicente, Fortunato de Leon, Miguel Diaz, and Senen J. Gabaldon, PNB President Arsenio

Jison, Executive Vice-President Conrado P. Sevilla, Vice-President Castor P. Cruz, Vice-President J. V. Buenaventura, and Economics Manager Tomas Aguirre.

Two other bills signed by the President were:

(1) H. B. No. 2685, authorizing the appropriation of P3 million for the construction of a building or buildings for the San Lazaro Hospital. The appropriated amount will come from the proceeds of the bond issues authorized under Republic Act No. 1000.

(2) H. B. No. 3721 and S. No. 281—authorizing the construction of the Marikina multi-purpose project; authorizing the Marikina Project Coordinating Committee to serve as the implementing agency of this project; authorizing financing by entities concerned of their share of the cost of this project; and authorizing the construction of the Ilog River multi-purpose project and fertilizer plant, and financing of the same, after the completion of the necessary investigation and study of these projects.

The signing of the two bills was witnessed by Rep. Eulogio Rodriguez, Jr., of Rizal, and Acting Undersecretary of Health Tranquilino Elicaño.

AFTER signing the bills, the President received callers, first of whom were Rep. Serafin Salvador of Rizal, Mayor Juan Chamyungco, Vice-Mayor Angel Santos, and the municipal councilors of Marikina, Rizal. They requested aid for public works projects in Marikina.

The members of the Asian Good Neighbor Relations Commission also called on the President to propose the establishment of the Magsaysay Asian Awards for literature, biography, history, current events, etc. The awards, according to Dr. Mariano V. de los Santos, would be patterned after the Pulitzer prizes and would be under the auspices of the Asian Good Neighbor Relations Commission. Those who called on the President were Dr. Mariano V. de los Santos, Miss Helen Benitez, Eugenio Puyat, Claudio Teehankee, Modesto Farolan, Prof. Nicolas Zafra, and Oscar Arellano.

The President also received a delegation of movie stars who are leaving shortly for Hongkong, B. C. C., to film *Sanda Wong*. With the delegation were Manuel Vistan, Jr. (producer), Lilia Dizon, Jose Padilla, Jr., Danilo Montes, Gil de Leon, and Gerry de Leon.

Officers of the Philippine Columbian Association headed by its president, Carlos Fernandez, also called to invite the President to be guest speaker at a dinner on July 4 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the independence movement. The President accepted the invitation.

Teodoro Evangelista, supreme commander of the Order of the Knights of Rizal, headed a group of officers of the Order who called to inform the President that their organization had decided to award to him the Rizal Medal of Honor for his devotion to the propagation of the principles and ideals of the great martyr-hero.

Other callers of the President were Macario Cainglet, provincial board member of Misamis Oriental, and Francisco Barrientos and Procopio Ranin, mayors respectively of Talisayan and Catarman, Misamis Oriental.

THE President also signed today H. B. No. 4166, establishing the Abaca Corporation of the Philippines. The newly created Abaca Corporation of the Philippines will be capitalized at P20 million divided into 200,000 shares of stock having a par value of P100 each.

The President signed nine other bills.

IN the afternoon, the President ordered the immediate reinstatement of suspended Gov. Serapio Datoc (Liberal) of Zamboanga del Sur following his exoneration from all the charges against him.

Gov. Datoc had been charged with oppression, misconduct in office, dishonesty, and abuse of authority. These charges had been investigated by Jose Briones of the legal division of Malacañang, who later submitted an exhaustive report recommending the complete exoneration of the governor. The findings were reviewed and concurred in by the legal division of Malacañang headed by Judge Salvador Esguerra.

THE President signed today the *ad interim* appointments of two judges of the courts of first instance.

The new appointees are Arturo A. Alafriz as district judge of the 7th judicial district of the court of first instance of Cavite and the cities of Cavite and Tagaytay, second branch; and Hilarion U. Jarencio as district judge of the 11th judicial district of the court of first instance of Iloilo and Iloilo City, second branch.

IN the evening, the President and Mrs. Magsaysay headed the gala audience that attended the special invitation premiere showing of MGM's *Interrupted Melody* at the remodelled Ideal Theater.

MALACANANG announced this day that Daniel Salcedo, director of the Bureau of Private Schools, had been suspended effective Wednesday, June 15. The suspension was contained in a letter signed by Assistant Executive Secretary Mariano A. Yenko, Jr., by order of the President.

Salcedo was suspended in view of the pendency before the court of first instance of the City of Manila of a criminal case against him for violation of section 54 of the revised Election Code, in relation to sections 183 and 185 of the same code, and of the administrative case against him in connection with the same offense.

The suspension will last until the final outcome of the criminal and administrative case against him.

June 17.—KEPT preoccupied by pending bills awaiting his action, the President received few callers this day. He conferred with his legal advisers, Judge Salvador Esguerra and Prof. Enrique M. Fernando, on the pending measures.

Up to noon today, the President had signed into law 146 bills and vetoed three out of the 212 bills submitted by both Chambers of Congress for presidential action.

The President has until tomorrow at midnight to act on the remaining 63 bills. All the bills gone over by the interdepartmental committee are being finally screened by the Malacañang legal staff headed by Judge Esguerra and Prof. Fernando, together with Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona.

THE President this morning approved House Bill No. 4344, creating the National Marketing Corporation (NAMARCO), to assist Filipino retailers and businessmen in the procurement of merchantable goods at prices that would enable them to compete successfully in the open market.

Now Republic Act No. 1345, the new law which abolishes the Price Stabilization Corporation (PRISCO) seeks to give Filipino businessmen a greater participation in the distribution system of the nation's economy. The NAMARCO will purchase and distribute goods to Filipino retailers not for the purpose of making profit but to render an essential public service.

The new corporation shall exist for 25 years with its main office either in Manila or in Quezon City. It may, however, establish such branches and agencies in other places, within and outside the Philippines, as may be necessary for the proper conduct of its business.

The NAMARCO is authorized:

(1) To procure and buy commodities for distribution at reasonable prices to Filipino retailers and businessmen in order to promote their greater participation in the distribution system of the national economy;

(2) To stabilize the prices of commodities in short supply by supplying commodities to the general public at fair prices through Filipino businessmen;

(3) To formulate policies and procedures with respect to the use and acceptance of eligible evidence of indebtedness in the sale of commodities on credit to Filipino retailers and businessmen in accordance with established business practices; and

(4) To borrow money from any credit institution for any of the purposes authorized by law.

The NAMARCO shall have an authorized capital of P30 million to be subscribed entirely by the government and to be paid out of any general fund in the national treasury. It shall have a general manager and a board of directors of seven members, consisting of the commerce secretary as ex officio chairman and six members who shall be appointed by the President.

In signing the bill, the President instructed Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma to implement its provisions in such a way as not to prejudice in any way private initiative and enterprise. The President pointed out that the measure is intended to assist and supplement private efforts.

THE Chief Executive this morning also signed House Bill No. 11, converting Barrio Tingley of Bauan, Batangas, into a municipality. The measure which became Republic Act No. 1344 was inked in the presence of a large delegation from the new municipality accompanied by Rep. Numeriano Babao, author of the bill.

The President limited himself to a few callers this morning. He spent most of his time in his private study going over a stack of bills passed at the last congressional session and submitted to him for approval.

Rep. Diosdado Macapagal called to urge approval of his bill which would convert the Bacolor Trade School in Pampanga into a national trade school. Other solons at Malacañang this morning included Reps. Pio Duran of Albay, Serafin Salvador of Rizal, Vicente L. Peralta of Sorsogon, Rodolfo Ganzon of Iloilo, Constancio Castañeda of Tarlac, Emilio Cortez of Pampanga, Erasmo Cruz of Bulacan, and Jose R. Nuguid of Bataan.

THIS noon, the President issued Executive Order No. 116, creating a committee to screen and aid deserving squatters and new settlers in Basilan City in connection with the allocation of lots in subdivisions of the Bureau of Lands there. The committee is composed of Hipolito B. Marcelo, district forester; Pio Paladio of the Bureau of Lands; the city fiscal; the chief of police; Mrs. Dolores Laconico of the girls scouts; Juan Estrada, Lions Club; Carlos Tan, Jaycees; Federico Morales, mayor's secretary; and the PC detachment commander.

IN the evening, the President signed into law 44 bills. The other bills signed by the President consisted mainly of the creation of barrios, the changing of names of barrios, and other local matters.

The President left the Palace in the afternoon for a brief drive around the city. He returned early in the evening.

June 18.—EARLY this morning, the President summoned his legal advisers, Judge Salvador Esguerra and Prof. Enrique M. Fernando, to help him go over the pending bills awaiting action.

The President, who had usually sought relief from overwork on weekends through out-of-town trips, found himself very busy indeed with some 63 controversial bills to pore over to beat his deadline at midnight today.

IN the morning, the President signed 29 bills and vetoed one.

He signed four of the bills before a group of congressmen and delegations. Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., Sen. Macario Peralta, Reps. Leon Guinto, Jr., and Manuel Enverga of Quezon, Serafin Salvador of Rizal, Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz, and PCAC Chairman and PVL Commander Frisco San Juan led the

delegations of members of the Philippine Veterans Legion, faculty members of the Philippine Normal College, and music lovers who witnessed the signing of the bills.

VETOED by the President was S. No. 149, amending Republic Act No. 875 by transferring from the Department of Labor to the Court of Industrial Relations the power to hear and decide on the registrability of labor unions which do not appear to meet the requirements for registration as well as on the cancellation of permits of legitimate labor organizations which fail to maintain themselves in good standing.

The President, in returning the bill to the Senate, said that he found no compelling reasons for the proposed transfer. "The Department of Labor has been exercising the power wisely and efficiently," he said. He also expressed belief that the transfer would give the CIR an additional load which might delay the disposal of more urgent and important cases handled by it.

The Chief Executive further explained that the elimination of a paragraph to Republic Act No. 875, which was proposed by the bill, was objectionable because without such provision the court would still have to order the cancellation or denial of registration of a labor organization which it might have previously declared as a company union.

IN the evening, a few hours before his deadline, the President finished taking action on all the 212 bills submitted to him by both Chambers of Congress, signing into law 189 bills, allowing to lapse into law one bill, and vetoing 22 others.

Of the 212 bills passed by Congress, 18 originated from the Senate and 194 were from the House of Representatives.

H. B. No. 3782, or the General Appropriations Act for 1955–56, was among the last important bills signed by the Chief Executive.

He allowed to lapse into law H. B. No. 1278, exempting from technical examination applicants for certificates as third mates and fourth engineers who graduated from the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy, King's Point, New York, U. S. A.

AMONG the controversial bills vetoed by the President were S. B. No. 231, prescribing a new scale of salaries for certain civil eligibilities; H. B. No. 4355, known as the Philippine Overseas Shipping Act of 1955; H. B. No. 1303, allowing to act as master of any fishing vessel of not more than 100 gross tons any Filipino citizen who is a graduate of a school of fisheries or who is a master fisherman or helmsman duly licensed by the Bureau of Fisheries; and H. B. No. 3787, creating the city of Imus in Cavite.

The President was assisted by Judge Salvador Esguerra, Prof. Enrique M. Fernando, Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, assistant Executive Secretary Mariano Yenke, Jr., and other assistants.

During his deliberation over the bills, the President directed Assistant Executive Secretary Yenke to take steps so that employees of the CIR Tenancy Division whose offices had been abolished with the approval a few days ago of the Agrarian Court Bill would not become jobless. He said that he would like if possible to have them integrated into the office of the Agrarian Courts.

The President at noon time called down some of his assistants who failed to notify him while he was poring over the bills that some 400 unemployed were at Malacañang to seek audience with the President. When he learned afterwards about the visit of the unemployed, he said he should have been told about it because he wanted to see them. He ordered his assistants to look for the leaders of the group and bring them to Malacañang for a special conference with the President.

The General Appropriations Acts as signed by the President appropriated a grand total, for all funds, of P602,007,374. This amount is broken down as follows: P539,278,381, general fund; P34,837,645, special fund; P12,446,321, fiduciary fund; and P15,445,000, bond fund.

The general fund appropriation is broken down as follows: P8,100,510, Congress; P13,201,478, Office of the President; P87,720, Office of the Vice-President; P6,694,780, Foreign Affairs; P10,891,640, Finance; P16,018,250, Justice; P17,411,420, Agriculture and Natural Resources; P20,996,160, Public Works; P176,811,255, Education; P1,328,430, Labor; P168,305,303, National Defense; P29,746,490, Health; P4,288,940, Commerce and Industry; P1,080,040, Economic Coordination; P2,090,590, General Auditing Office; P5,919,670, University of the Philippines; P442,420, Philippine Normal College; P315,560, Central Luzon Agricultural College; P245,300, Philippine College of Commerce; P255,690, Mindanao Agricultural College; P200,000, Mindanao Institute of Technology; P4,129,020, Commission on Elections; P762,680, Supreme Court; P857,880, Court of Appeals; P44,097,215, Counterpart Funds; and P5,000,000, Contingent Fund.

The President vetoed three minor items in the budget. The first appropriated P5,000 for the Bureau of Internal Revenue to pay rewards to informers. The administration had asked for P500,000 but this request was reduced to P5,000. The item was vetoed on the ground the appropriation was very inadequate and as such would not serve the purpose for which it had been requested.

A second special provision stricken out by the President limited to 180 days period during which government officials and employees may be placed on temporary detail in other offices. This was vetoed on the ground that the matter of special details was properly and adequately covered by the Revised Administrative Code and was out of place in a general appropriations act.

The third vetoed item sought to restrict the assignment of Bureau of Private Schools employed exclusively in this bureau, so that they could not even be assigned to, for example, the office of the secretary of education. This was vetoed on the same ground as the second item.

The Senate in concurrent resolution No. 31 and the House in concurrent resolution No. 72 gave consent to the President and the Vice-President to accept the decorations, "Knight Grand Cordon (Special Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant" and "Knight Grand Cordon (Special Class) of the most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand," respectively, conferred upon them by the Government of Thailand.

The President vetoed Senate Bill 231, prescribing a new scale of salaries for civil service eligibilities because "the bill may well be considered as piecemeal legislation, confined as it is to only a few eligibilities, when there are many other eligibilities to be considered. If inequalities exist in the salaries of government employees, it is believed that a review of the entire classification and compensation plan should be made."

He also observed that the finances of the government would not warrant the proposed increases in the entrance and maximum salary rates.

The President vetoed H. B. No. 4355, known as the Philippine Overseas Shipping Act of 1955, because of section 12 of the bill which exempts all earnings of ocean-going vessels of Philippine registry engaged in international trade from currency control.

The President said that according to the monetary board this provision would not only create difficulties in the administration of foreign exchange control but would also cause confusion in the allocation of the limited foreign exchange receipts among the country's requirements for essential commodities for economic development. He added that the measure would also create multiple rates of exchange which the monetary board considered dangerous to currency stability.

The Chief Executive also said that the approval of the bill might constitute a bad precedent in that other entities whose transactions involved earnings in foreign exchange might ask for the same privilege. He said that the bill was highly commendable in promoting Philippine maritime commerce and the development of the country's merchant

marine. He added that if it would be re-enacted by Congress without the objectionable portion, it would meet with his wholehearted approval.

President Magsaysay disapproved House Bill 1308, authorizing graduates of schools of fisheries licensed by the Bureau of Fisheries to have charge of fishing vessels of not more than 100 gross tons, without previous license issued by the Bureau of Customs because, he said, this would make fishing boats hazards to navigation. He said the safety of lives and property of other vessels manned by duly licensed marine officers would be greatly imperiled if untrained and inexperienced graduates of fisheries schools were permitted to act as masters of fishing boats. He also said that the bill would be discriminatory against those who possess experience and qualifications to man vessels in Philippine waters.

The President also vetoed H. B. 3787, creating Imus City because of lack of financial income of the city to support its operation. According to the secretary of finance, the general fund income of the proposed city may be estimated at a maximum of P120,000. However, the finance secretary informed the President that the total estimated expenditures of the proposed city including the maintenance of intermediate classes would amount to P217,000.

The Chief Executive concluded: "Unless effective measures could be found to balance the general fund income and the expenditures of the proposed city, its conversion is not considered advisable.

June 19.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay was presented with a testimonial scroll and the Rizal Medal of Honor by the Order of the Knights of Rizal in a solemn ceremony held at Malacañang this morning in connection with the observance of the 94th birthday of the great Filipino Martyr-hero.

In presenting the award, Teodoro Evangelista, supreme Knight commander, informed the President that he was being bestowed the highest honor that could be given by the organization because of his "unswerving devotion to the ideals and teachings of Dr. Jose Rizal, his unflagging interest in the propagation of the Rizalian way of life, and his personal deeds and sacrifices in helping realize Rizal's most cherished dreams of bringing about the Filipino people's happiness over and above the call of duty."

The President, in his response, thanked the members of the organization for bestowing upon him this "great honor." He said that he was surprised when he first learned that he was to be the first recipient of the Knight's highest award.

The Chief Executive recalled, in his brief remarks some of Rizal's teachings which, according to him, had all the attributes of a "missionary zeal." He said that the hero's teachings had always been his guiding principles from the time he had started his career in the public service up to now.

The ceremony which started at exactly 9 a.m. was attended by about 50 members of the organization. The citation which was elaborately written on thick sheep-skin was read by Francisco C. Zamora, supreme pursuivant.

The ceremony lasted about eight minutes. Among others present were Hermenegildo B. Reyes, deputy supreme commander; Mariano V. de los Santos, supreme chancellor; Gabriel A. Daza, supreme exchequer; Jose M. Hernandez, supreme archivist; Herminio Velarde, Francisco Dalupan, and Bartolome Gatmaitan, supreme trustees.

In the afternoon, the President announced that a loan of P64,000,000 had been made available to the Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Financing Administration (ACCFA) to bolster its nationwide objective of increasing the productive and purchasing power of the people at the grass-roots level.

The President made this announcement during a conference in Malacañang with Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, Sr., and ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo during which intensification of the ACCFA activities was discussed in connection with the granting of the loan.

The huge loan was made available through negotiations made by Governor Cuaderno with United States banks. The loan is payable in ten years.

The Chief Executive said: "A sure and effective way of saving our poor farmers from economic slavery and from the clutches of the middlemen who reap profits of some P500,000,000 yearly is through the ACCFA Cooperatives and the FACOMAs."

He added that the country needed a bold move like the ACCFA program of solving the rural economy through self-help, cooperative endeavor, and free enterprise in order to increase the productive and purchasing capacities of the common people. Otherwise, he said the government's aim of industrialization would fail.

When told by Mondoñedo that the ACCFA had trained some 80 additional agents and cooperative officials, the President directed that this number should be increased to 100 agents a month, with a target of 200. He added that this training should continue until there was a competent ACCFA cooperative officials to organize ACCFA and FACOMA units in each of the some 1,200 towns throughout the Philippines.

Governor Cuaderno suggested that the trainees should be chosen preferably from graduates of technical schools like the Los Baños and the Central Luzon Agricultural Colleges and other technical colleges. Mondoñedo explained that competitive examinations were given before trainees were chosen. He added that the trainees in turn would train others in the towns where they would be assigned.

The President was informed by Mondoñedo that the P64,000,000 loan would be utilized in the construction of warehouses, copra driers, refrigeration and processing plants, and other facilities to improve marketing. Mondoñedo said that with the recent approval of the President of the release of more funds for the ACCFA, his office had enough means to carry out its functions.

Governor Cuaderno said that the government's all-out irrigation system program, together with the additional P64,000,000 loan to the ACCFA, would surely produce results in increasing the productive and purchasing capacities of the masses of the people. To this, the President added that he had already released the cement needed in some 80 communal irrigation projects.

ADDRESSING the *Asociación Feminista Filipina* on the occasion of its Golden Jubilee celebration at the Manila Hotel this evening, President Magsaysay exhorted members of the women's organization to expand their activities to the rural areas where aid and guidance are needed most.

The President said in addressing the vast assemblage of women leaders:

"Your successes, following the pattern of events of the past half-century in our country, have been felt chiefly in the cities and urban centers. They have hardly caused a ripple in the rural areas where so many of our women continue to live in conditions of ignorance and primitive living not far from those which had prevailed over the country when you began the good light to reform them 50 years ago."

The President asked the women leaders "to direct their efforts and extend their assistance to the women in the rural areas." He added: "I know that you can effectively supplement and reinforce the Administration's efforts in this field."

The Chief Executive urged the women leaders to help and instruct barrio folks in the proper care and education of children, in healthful living in cottage industries, in the literacy campaign, in increasing the production of their farms, and in political action.

"You can guide them to new heights of social, political, and economic achievement," he added.

The President took occasion to congratulate the members of the association for having scored signal achievements in social work, prison reforms, care of the infirm and the insane, and in juvenile delinquency prevention. He praised the Filipino women today as "the most advance woman in this part of the world, socially, economically, and politically." (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 2850-2852, for the full text of the President's speech.)

The President and Mrs. Magsaysay motored to the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel to attend the Golden Jubilee celebration of the Feminist Movement in the Philippines, a few minutes before 6 p.m. They were accompanied by Maj. Pat Garcia, presidential aide.

June 20.—DESPITE the threat of darkness at high noon this day, the President met an unusually large number of callers in the morning. He ploughed through his schedule with his guests and blessed them with pledges of action as he urged them to have more patience.

The President administered the oath of office to Dr. Manuel O. Hizon as acting social security administrator in a ceremony held in Malacañang this morning, to implement the Social Security Act passed by Congress last year.

Authored by Rep. Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur, the Act which had been passed in last year's congressional session without necessary appropriations, provides for the creation of a new office which would handle unemployment, sickness, disability, retirement, and death benefits for employees of private firms.

Crisologo, who was present at the induction, explained that the new office which is currently being organized, would be similar to the GSIS which handles insurance for government employees. Also present at the Induction were Rodolfo P. Andal, GSIS board member; Abdon Angeles, treasurer; and Rafael C. Borja, technical assistant.

THE Chief Executive started receiving callers at 9 a.m. His many visitors consisted mainly of provincial delegations which requested artesian wells, schoolbuildings, roads, and puericulture centers for their respective localities.

Such delegations included that from Cavite headed by Gov. Dominador Mangubat; from Quezon accompanied by Reps. Manuel Enverga and Leon Guinto, Jr.; from Nueva Ecija accompanied by Rep. Celestino Juan; from Batangas accompanied by Rep. Apolinario Apacible; from Camarines Norte accompanied by Rep. Fernando Pajarillo; and from Curima, Ilocos Norte, headed by Mayor Nemesio Jurdaleza.

AFTER 11 a.m., the President took time out several times from receiving his visitors to hurry up to the roof garden of the Palace, to view the progress of the solar eclipse. The first time he took a look at the eclipse was at 11:01 a.m. Later he viewed the total eclipse with Mrs. Magsaysay and daughter Mila. He stayed at the roof a few minutes, then hurried down to his office to receive a delegation from the National Press Club which presented him with a bronze plaque on which had been scrolled an award of appreciation "for valuable help rendered in the construction of the National Press Club of the Philippines building dedicated to the development and encouragement of a strong, militant, and independent Philippine Press."

The award was handed to him by Teodoro F. Valencia of the *Philippines Herald*, NPC president. The delegation of newsmen included Francisco de Leon of the *Chronicle*, Luciano Millan of the *Bulletin*, Mabini R. Centeno, Eugenio Santos, and Jose D. Aspiras of the *Evening News*, Silvino Caparas of the *Daily Mirror*, Domingo Abadilla of the *Manila Times*, Miguel Rojas of the *Mabuhay-Debate*, Eduardo Gregorio of the *Bagong Buhay*, Pierre Brissard and Jules Joelson, outgoing and incoming bureau chief of the French News Agency in Manila, respectively.

A Jaycee delegation headed by Roberto Villanueva presented the President with a documentary film recently televised over a nation-wide hook-up in the United States in connection with the Liberty Wells fund drive there. Larry Marquez, who brought the film to Manila, said that the TV program netted an initial collection of P10,000.

Serapio J. Datoc, recently reinstated governor of Zamboanga del Norte, called to thank the President following his exoneration of seven administrative charges filed against him. "I am convinced, Mr. President, that this Administration intends to do justice to everyone, Nacionalistas and Liberals alike," Datoc, a Liberal Party governor, said.

ABOUT 11:30, after conferring with Directors Felipe R. Amos of the Bureau of Forestry and Zoilo Castrillo of the Bureau of Lands on the conversion of certain forestry lands into agricultural lands, the President again went up to

the roof garden to view the eclipse. Unfortunately, he found the sun and the moon completely covered by a large bank of clouds. Disappointed, he hurried down back to his office to receive the rest of his callers.

DISPOSING of all his scheduled visitors at 12:15 p.m., the President hurried back to the roof in time to see the sun almost covered by the moon. He and members of his family watched the heavenly phenomenon through specially prepared polaroid glasses and a 4-inch reflecting telescope which projected the eclipse on a piece of white paper used as screen.

The President craned his neck skyward most of the time during the totality of the eclipse. At 12:30, when the sun finally emerged, he looked around and said: "Good morning, everybody. Let's go and have breakfast."

IN the afternoon the President had under consideration the implementation of Republic Act No. 1345, abolishing the Price Stabilization Corporation (PRISCO) and creating the National Marketing Corporation (NAMARCO).

The President received the recommendation for the implementation of the law from Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, ex officio chairman of the NAMARCO.

Among the recommendations of Ledesma was to allow the present members of the PRISCO board to take over the functions of the new NAMARCO board even only in an acting capacity. He recommended the appointment to the board of the following: Ramon Siytangco and German P. Neri for a term of three years, Isaac Saldaña and Hermogenes Dimagiba for a term of two years, and Jose Castillo, Jr., and Alberto M. K. Jamir for a term of one year.

Regarding the personnel of the new corporation, Ledesma said that under the provisions of R. A. 1345, the PRISCO personnel would be transferred to the NAMARCO, and the board of directors had 120 days within which to reappoint the old employees. Those not reappointed within 120 days would be automatically laid off and would be entitled to the benefits of gratuity in lump sum aside from their sick and vacation leaves.

The President also took up this afternoon with NARIC General Manager Juan O. Chioco the implementation of the presidential directive at the last Cabinet meeting to have the NARIC extend its sale of rice to laborers and low-salaried government employees under the card system.

Until recently, the NARIC had been selling its rice to indigents who had been issued identification cards. The President said that he wanted this privilege extended also to other less privileged classes of people. He told Chioco to get started as soon as possible in implementing the new Cabinet-approved directive.

"I would like to look immediately for the needed rice supply and sell it at the cheapest possible price to laborers and low-salaried employees," the President told Chioco.

The President also took up with Rep. Celestino Juan of Nueva Ecija the implementation of R. A. 1266, authorizing the National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration to expropriate the Hacienda del Rosario at Valdefuente, Cabanatuan City.

Rep. Juan said that NARRA General Manager Eligio Tavanlar is proceeding to the hacienda within the week to look into the details of the expropriation of the hacienda.

The President said that he would like the expropriation proceedings to be finished at the earliest possible time in order that the land could be subdivided into lots and sold at cost to the tenants.

The President had a *merienda* conference this afternoon with NARIC General Manager Chioco and Rep. Juan during which NARIC matters and the expropriation of the Hacienda del Rosario were taken up. Also present at the conference were Dr. Enrique Melencio and Legislative Secretary Jose C. Nable.

June 21.—THE President, today directed Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug to go ahead with the court-martial of two ranking Army officers and the taking of administrative action against three other Army officers who had been allegedly involved in the P802,400 contract for the purchase of Army supplies from Japan.

The Chief Executive gave the order after conferring with one of his legal advisers, Prof. Enrique M. Fernando, on the report submitted by the committee headed by Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol. The committee had investigated the contract of the AFP with A. Galvez and Co. upon order of the President.

Col. Manuel Q. Salients had been charged by the Crisol committee with having violated Articles of War 96 and 97, while Col. Arturo Garcia with having violated Article of War 97. Both had been recommended for court-martial. However, the committee had recommended administrative action to be taken against Maj. Candido B. Gavino, LCdr. Mariano G. de Leon, PN, and Capt. Antonio L. Edralin for failure to carry out properly their assigned duties and to protect the best interests of the military service.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay said today that he would oppose the move to grant pardon to former Rep. Narciso Umali of Quezon, who had been sentenced last year to life imprisonment for having been involved in a Huk raid in Tiaong, Quezon, on November 14, 1951, during which three murders had been committed. The President's statement was prompted by telegrams from various parts of the country opposing the move to free Umali.

THE President also ordered this day the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources to cancel all individual permits for the operation of large fishponds and salt-beds that are hampering the livelihood and preventing the economic progress of small fishermen.

The President issued the order after listening to two councilors from Bulacan, Bulacan, who told him about the difficulties of small Bulacan fishermen in earning their daily subsistence. The councilors claimed that the small fishermen could no longer fish because almost all the fishing grounds were already being operated by individual operators with permits.

The councilors, Jose de Lino and Conrado Hernandez, told the Chief Executive that the big operators were even threatening the small fishermen. The President was indignant over the report of the councilors and he promptly directed the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources to cancel all permits of big fishpond and salt-bed operators that were adversely affecting the livelihood of the small fishermen.

Reps. Erasmo Cruz and Rogaciano Mercado and Mayor Mamerto Bernardo of Pandi, Bulacan, and Acting Mayor Andres Laderas of Hagonoy accompanied the two councilors to Malacañang.

MEMBERS of the Rural Health Unit led by Health Secretary Paulino Garcia and Sen. Jose Locsin also called on the President and informed him about the progress of their work. The Rural Health Unit was responsible for the putting up of health centers in the barrios all over the country. A tape recording of an interview with barrio folk in barrio Carmen, Zaragosa, Nueva Ecija, was played before the President. The barrio folk expressed satisfaction over the establishment of a periculture center in their barrio.

The President congratulated the members of the Rural Health Unit for their efforts and encouraged them to keep on with their work. Aside from Secretary Garcia and Senator Locsin, those who called on the President were Acting Undersecretary Tranquilino Elicaño, Dr. Trinidad Gomez, Dr. Jesus Nolasco, and Dr. Amado Cruz.

A LARGE delegation from Cabanatuan City requested the President that the city officials of Cabanatuan be made elective. The President told the delegation, headed by Claro Bautista and Anastacio Madrid, that he could not recommend the passage of a bill making the Cabanatuan City officials elective in the coming special session but he would certify one next year during the regular session of Congress.

THE President today inducted into office Ulpiano Coligado as member of the Board of Examiners for Chemical Engineers. The induction was witnessed by Rep. Wenceslao Lagumbay, Gov. Dominador Chipeco of Laguna, Amado Briñas of the BIR, Mayor Tomas Dizon of San Pablo City, and Mrs. Coligado.

THE Chief Executive received a letter from Atty. Demetrio Hernandez of Alaminos, Laguna, who disclaimed aspirations for the Laguna governorship saying that he would not launch his candidacy for governor as long as Gov. Dominador Chipeco was a candidate for the same position.

Atty. Hernandez welcomed the support and endorsement of the President in favor of the candidacy of Gov. Chipeco. He said that the support and endorsement of the President should inspire all the Nacionalistas in Laguna.

OTHER callers of the President included Reps. Domingo Veloso of Leyte, Domocao Alonto of Lanao, Felipe Garduque of Cagayan, Emilio Cortez of Pampanga, Constancio Casteñada of Tarlac, Alberto Ubay of Zamboanga del Norte and Ricardo Ladrido of Iloilo; Gov. Vicente Constantino of Quezon, Arsenio Lugay of Tarlac, and Francisco Infantado of Mindoro Oriental; Mayor Jose Rodriguez of Cebu City, Board Member Vicente Correa of Quezon, Mayor Joaquin Macias of Sindangan, Zamboanga del Norte, and ex-Senator Salidapa Pendatun.

THE President issued today Administrative Order No. 120, creating a committee to coordinate action on no-dollar importations so as to prevent conflict or confusion in the execution of the Central Bank and the Anti-Dumping Acts.

In issuing the administrative order, the President held that the issuance of no-dollar allocation licenses by the Central Bank had in some cases resulted in the importation of goods in violation of the Anti-Dumping Act, thereby making it necessary for the secretary of finance to order the reshipment of the goods abroad or to permit their importation upon payment of special customs duties in addition to the regular duties.

With Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez as chairman, the members of the committee are Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, Sr., Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta, OEC Administrator Alfredo Montelibano, Customs Commissioner Manuel Manahan, and Malacañang Technical Assistant Col. Jaime Velasquez.

The Committee is authorized by the President to call upon any department, bureau, office, agency, or instrumentality of the government for such assistance or cooperation as it might need in the performance of its functions.

IN the evening, the President fired a justice of the peace and required another to resign.

The Chief Executive removed from office Miss Concepcion Buenconsejo as justice of the peace of Alcoy, Cebu, for collecting fees in excess of that allowed by Republic Act No. 145 in connection with the prosecution of a claim for compensation benefits from the U. S. Veterans Administration. The case had been investigated by a district judge of Cebu who had found the respondent guilty of the charge. Her dismissal takes effect upon receipt of the administrative order.

In the other case, the President required Pablo S. de Joya to resign as justice of the peace of Pinamalayan and Bongabon, Mindoro Oriental, for alleged abuse of authority and partiality. The administrative cases against de Joya had been investigated by the district judge. The administrative order required de Joya to resign his post within 15 days from receipt of the order with forfeiture of all leave and retirement privileges to which he might be otherwise entitled. Should he fail to resign within the specified period, the order added, he should be consider removed from the service on the day following the expiration of said period.

In both cases, the President acted on the recommendation of the secretary of justice.

June 22.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay honored Brig. Gen. Ralph B. Lovett with a breakfast held at Malacañang this morning prior to the latter's return to the U. S. after completing a two-year tour of duty in the Philippines. The general is scheduled to leave by plane next Friday.

Gen. Lovett has spent a total of 12 years in the Philippines, having been sent here several times in various capacities by the U. S. Government. He has spent the last two years recording Filipino guerrilla activities during the Japanese occupation. Before that, he had been for six years head of the U. S. Veterans Administration in Manila.

Present at the breakfast were Mrs. Magsaysay, Mrs. Lovett, Ambassador and Mrs. Homer Ferguson, Lieut. Gen. and Mrs. Jesus Vargas, Admiral and Mrs. Hugh H. Goodwin, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Burrows, Mr. and Mrs. John T. Cooper, Jr., Col. and Mrs. James Vande Hey, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Parrette, and Commander Charles Parsons.

After breakfast, the President repaired to his study where he conferred with some department secretaries who consulted him on various matters. He also conferred with several senators and representatives who sought audience with him before the scheduled Cabinet meeting at 10 a.m.

OEC Administrator Alfredo Montelibano discussed with the President plans to increase the board of directors of the Manila Hotel corporation from five to seven. Montelibano said a director should come from the GSIS in view of the loans of the GSIS to the Manila Hotel amounting to P2 million.

Mayor Gregorio A. Gamotin of Tudela, Misamis Occidental, requested funds for a number of projects in his municipality. He was accompanied by Rep. William Chiongbian, who also sought help for municipalities in the province.

Other callers included PHHC Manager Vicente Orosa, Sen. Justiniano S. Montano, Reps. Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo, Justino Nuyda and Pio Duran of Albay, Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Brig. Gen. Pelagio A. Cruz, and Eligio J. Tavanlar.

After the Cabinet meeting which lasted until 1 p. m., the President received a delegation composed of FACOMA representatives, barrio lieutenants, and PTA presidents from Mal-lig, Isabela, who requested the reconstruction of school buildings and the installation of pumps and artesian wells in their respective localities.

THE President and the Cabinet at their meeting this day unanimously thumbed down a resolution of the board of directors of the National Development Company proposing to sell 20 per cent of NDC holdings in the Philippine Air Lines to the Pan American World Airways.

The NDC board had recommended approval of the sale in cash at P12.50 per share of 20 per cent of the authorized and outstanding capital stock of the PAL from the 54.186 per cent owned by the NDC.

The result of this sale if approved would be to remove the government's majority voting control insofar as the airlines' affairs and operations were concerned.

The President, in his desire to clear the backlog in the Cabinet agenda, presided over the meeting up to almost 1:00 p. m. The meeting began at about 10:30 a.m.

The Cabinet approved a resolution directing Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., to circularize division superintendents of schools regarding the intensification of the Government's campaign against locust and pest infestation. It was suggested that the aid of school children be enlisted where practicable in helping minimize infestation. Secretary Hernandez was instructed to study the details and the best means of implementing this plan.

The Cabinet also:

- (1) Approved the recommendation of the undersecretary of commerce and industry and the civil aeronautics administrator designating Emilio M. Asistores, deputy CAA administrator, as secretary-general of the Pacific Regional Air Navigation meeting scheduled in Manila in November 1955. Asistores will be responsible for directing and coordinating the preparatory arrangements to be made by the Philippines as host state to the International Civil Aviation Association (ICAO).

(2) Approved a proposed executive order revising Executive Order No. 369, fixing the schedule of per diems for provincial, city, and municipal officers and employees. The proposed executive order increased the old rates, with per diems ranging from P2 to P5 daily, depending on the salaries.

(3) Approved the recommendation of OEC Administrator Alfredo Montelibano that the 1949 income tax assessment in the amount of P140,530.08 levied against the NARIC be lifted. The finance secretary interposed no objection.

(4) Approved the request of the government of Rizal for authority to use pre-war deposits with the Philippine National Bank to purchase rice from the NARIC for resale to the public. It was stipulated that the money would be used as a revolving fund. The Cabinet approved the request provided that the proceeds from the sale be used for rural improvement.

THE President today issued Executive Order No. 118, creating a committee to screen and aid deserving squatters and new settlers in Mindoro Oriental. He also signed:

(1) Administrative Order No. 121, creating a training coordination council to coordinate and facilitate the in-service training activities in the different offices of the government; and

(2) Proclamation No. 168, declaring August 24 to 30, 1955, as the “Golden Jubilee Week Commemorating Fifty Years of Red Cross Service in the Philippines.”

The committee for screening and aiding squatters and settlers in Mindoro Oriental was charged by the President with the duties of assisting in the allocation of public lands to landless people, making a census of squatters and would-be settlers in the province, and keeping an up-to-date list of available public lands in the different parts of the province.

Members of the committee are District Land Officer Antonio Pangilinan, District Forester Mamerto Villanueva, PC Provincial Commander Maj. Mariano Tumaliuan, Antonio Adriatico of the Office of the Governor of Mindoro Oriental, local NARRA Superintendent Emiliano Ozaeta, Zacarias Umali of the Provincial Agricultural Council, Pedro Abelgas of the Calapan Rotary, Mrs. Candida Nable of the Calapan Women’s Club, and Social Worker (in charge) Miss Esperanza Vejilla.

The Training Coordination Council to coordinate and facilitate in-service training activities is composed of the administrative officer of the Department of Education as chairman with the administrative officers of the other departments, the Office of the President, and the General Auditing Office as members.

The council was instructed by the President to avail itself of the technical aid and guidance of the Institute of Public Administration. It may call upon any department, bureau, office, agency, or instrumentality of the government for such other assistance and information as it may require. All officials and employees of the government were enjoined by the President to give their whole-hearted support and cooperation to the in-service training programs which the council may develop for their respective offices.

In declaring August 24 to 30 of this year as the “Golden Jubilee Week Commemorating Fifty Years of Red Cross Service in the Philippines,” the President cited that the Philippine National Red Cross has contributed for half a century to the amelioration of suffering, the promotion of health, and the development of national consciousness for humanitarian service among the people.

IN the evening, the President designated Jesus E. Perpiñan as acting director of private schools. Perpiñan, who was the assistant private schools director, took the place of Salcedo, who had been recently suspended by the President.

June 23.—THIS morning, the President paid surprise visits to two offices representing the government’s most important sources of income and expressed satisfaction over the way the new chiefs were improving their bureaus. Visited by the President were the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs.

Going first to the Bureau of Customs, the President was shown by Acting Commissioner Manuel P. Manahan three pieces of baggage that had been caught by customs men in an attempted smuggle to Hongkong, B. C. C. The pieces of baggage contained spare parts of diesel engines that could be used for caterpillars and tanks.

Manahan also informed the President that all anomalous and illegal cases at the bureau were being investigated. He informed the Chief Executive of the case where examiners illegally released merchandise by classifying it under a different name. A committee of three under the supervision of Antonio Villegas was created by Commissioner Manahan to formally investigate the cases. The committee is composed of Jose Briones, Amado Padilla, and Crispulo Ilumin.

At the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the President was informed by Acting Collector Silverio Blaquera that the income for 1954-1955 ending June 30 was P5 million more than the estimated amount expected by the BIR. The Chief Executive was also informed of the new and better methods employed by the BIR for the assessment of taxes.

With Blaquera during his conversation with the President was Roy Davis, American tax adviser with the Department of Finance. The President returned to Malacañang at 10:45 a.m.

Manuel P. Manahan was made today permanent commissioner of customs by President Magsaysay, by appointing him *ad interim* commissioner of Customs. The President relieved Commissioner Manahan of all his duties at the PCAC so that he could devote his full time in straightening up matters in the Bureau of Customs and in improving it.

Meanwhile, Malacañang announced that Col. Frisco San Juan, present national commander of the Philippine Veterans Legion, had been designated and is still the chairman of the PCAC in an acting capacity.

President Magsaysay today ordered the suspension of Mayor Enrique Manaloto of Pasay City pending hearing of an administrative charge against him for having allegedly demanded and received money from a clubhouse owner on Dewey Boulevard.

Jesus Paredes, Malacañang technical assistant, was assigned to investigate the charge. Mayor Manaloto was notified of his suspension tonight by special courier dispatched from Malacañang. Adolfo Santos, Pasay vice-mayor, will act as city mayor during the suspension of Manaloto.

According to the charge, Mayor Manaloto allegedly demanded and received the amount of P250 a week from October 1954 to January 1955 for his allowing the operation of a clubhouse owned by one Benjamin Gonzales. Payment, however, had been discontinued last January and the clubhouse ordered closed because the mayor reportedly raised the amount to P300 weekly which the operator allegedly could not meet.

Mayor Manaloto's suspension had been recommended by a team of NBI investigators who had been assigned to probe the case. The NBI findings forwarded to Malacañang mentioned one Capt. Antonio Gervasio of the Pasay City Police who, the report stated, allegedly acted as Mayor Manaloto's "collector." Copies of the NBI findings on which the mayor's suspension was based will be forwarded to the Pasay City municipal board which will take action on the case of the police captain.

Malacañang said this case of extortion against Mayor Manaloto was only one of several charges filed against the city executive by one Godofredo del Rosario. Other charges, alleging official misrepresentation, obstruction of investigation, nepotism, abuse and maladministration in office, toleration of vices, and neglect of duty, were still being investigated, the Palace said.

Meanwhile, the President announced this morning the appointment of six board directors of the newly-created National Marketing Corporation. Appointed were Ramon Siytangco, German P. Neri, Isaac Saldaña, Hermogenes Dimagiba, Jose Castillo, Jr., and Alberto M. K. Jamir, all board members of the abolished Price Stabilization Corporation.

It was understood that the new appointees would serve for a period of one year. Their appointments have been forwarded to Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, who under the laws, is ex officio chairman of the NAMARCO board.

IN the afternoon, the President officiated at the ground-breaking ceremonies of the P3,769,000 Daet River irrigation project in barrio Alawihao, Daet, Camarines Norte.

At exactly 4 p.m., the President pushed the electric plunger installed on an improvised stage which set a fuse, blowing up the ground a few hundred feet away.

The Daet River irrigation project is the first major gravity irrigation to be constructed in the Bicol peninsula. It will irrigate initially 4,000 hectares of rice lands and, when expanded, can serve 6,000 hectares. In terms of pesos the expected increased production is valued at P1,827,000.

The President in a brief extemporaneous remarks in Tagalog before officiating at the ground breaking ceremonies, expressed the hope that the irrigation system would be able to enrich all the tillable lands in the province. Consequently, he added this would give a new life of abundance to all, especially the farmers and the barrio people who had suffered from poverty.

The President pointed out that although the construction of the irrigation system was not one of the promises made to the Bicolanos during the last political campaign, the Administration gave its construction a top priority in its determination to ameliorate the living conditions of the people in the rural areas.

The Chief Executive said that the people of Bicolandia in the years to come, when they would be enjoying the benefits of the irrigation system, should thank the Nacionalista administration which had given them the means with which they had improved their lives.

He also praised the officials of Camarines Norte, especially Sen. Cea, Rep. Pajarillo, Gov. Panotes, and Mayor Carranceja for doing their best in contributing their share to the realization of the Daet River irrigation project.

Gov. Panotes, who acted as master of ceremonies, thanked the Chief Executive for his great efforts in bringing to realization the construction of the irrigation system. He added that it was during the administration of President Magsaysay that Camarines Norte had been receiving benefits, especially the irrigation system, which had been promised in the past by other administrations.

Sen. Cea, who spoke briefly, said that the President had shown his real love for the people of Camarines Norte as proven by the construction of the irrigation system. He added that it was for this reason that the people love him in return.

He asked the people to show proof of their affection to the President by electing in the next elections whomever the President backs as candidates.

Mayor Carranceja welcomed the President and said that the people know how to show their gratitude to the President for what he was doing for them. Rep. Pajarillo introduced the President.

The President took off from the Airbase Operations at about 1:25 p.m. aboard the presidential plane *Pagasa* and landed at the Bagasbas airport in Daet at 2:35 p.m. He was accompanied on the plane by Secretary Orosa, Sen. Cea, Rep. Pajarillo, Undersecretaries Crisol and Ferrer, Brig. Gen. Pelagio Cruz, Ed Prentice of the FOA, Manuel J. Gonzalez, and Presidential Aide Maj. Pat Garcia.

The presidential party was met by Camarines Norte officials headed by Gov. Panotes. A ladies' welcoming committee placed leis on the President. Immediately after, a motorcade led to the dam site in barrio Alawihao, some nine kilometers away.

The ceremonies were held on a stage near the dam site. Immediately after the ground breaking ceremonies, the President motored to the airport and took off on the *Pagasa*, arriving in Manila at 5:20 p.m.

June 24.—THE President started the day with breakfast with Bruno Shaw of *Colliers* magazine. Also at breakfast were Ambassador Felino Neri and Press Secretary J. V. Cruz.

After breakfast, he repaired to his study where he received callers until 11 a.m., when he cancelled all his remaining appointments owing to indisposition.

EARLY this morning, the President conferred with Sen. Jose P. Laurel. He also saw Reps. Angel Castaño and Augusto Francisco of Manila, Florencio Moreno of Romblon, and Mateo Pecson of Masbate, who called to consult him on problems of their respective districts.

President Magsaysay this morning held a conference with Democratic Party leaders. No announcement was made after the conference. Present were Sen. Fernando Lopez, acting DP president; Sen. Lorenzo Sumulong, Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, and Reps. Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo, Jose Roy of Tarlac, and Conrado Morente of Mindoro Oriental.

THE President announced today he planned to include the Home Financing Bill in the agenda for the special session opening on July 5.

The bill seeks to establish a revolving fund of P5 million which a Home Financing Commission will use to guarantee loans to be extended to private citizens for the home-building.

A Malacañang spokesman said in connection with published reports that President Magsaysay had agreed to postpone the July 5 date for later date, that “as of now there has been no change in the opening date of the special session.”

President Magsaysay today wrote Alfredo Lozano, local music impresario, congratulating and commending him for “the distinct cultural service which you rendered to our people” in connection with the recent visit here of the Symphony of the Air.

The President lauded Lozano, who handled arrangements for the Manila phase of the orchestra’s Asian tour, for “your many other efforts in the past to provide them (the Filipino people) with the best that the world of art has to offer.”

THE President today directed the presidential expropriation committee to step up the study and processing of all haciendas and homesites whose expropriation had been requested by tenants.

Manuel Castañeda, chairman of the presidential expropriation committee, submitted to the President a list of 11 haciendas and 12 homesites already studied, screened, and recommended favorably for expropriation by his committee. The two other members of the committee are Deputy Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco and Prof. Vicente Lontok.

The President said that pending passage of the land tenure bill, he would use any available funds in the government, either from the NARRA or from any other appropriate source, for the expropriation of these estates.

The President directed that the screening and processing of the rest of the haciendas and homesites, aside from those already submitted to the Chief Executive, be stepped up. He added that he wanted these data ready so that if the land tenure bill is passed, immediate action could be taken in expropriation proceedings.

President Magsaysay Friday also directed Jesus Paredes, Malacañang technical assistant who had been assigned to investigate the charges against suspended Pasay City Mayor Enrique Manaloto, to expedite the investigation and to

give the respondent mayor justice. Paredes had been appointed investigator of the case Thursday, and Friday he was busy going over the charges prior to carrying out the investigation.

In this connection, a Malacañang spokesman said in answer to an inquiry that Caloocan Mayor Macario Asistio, who had been accused of grave irregularities by the NBI, has not been suspended owing to the recent Supreme Court ruling casting doubt on Malacañang's power to discipline municipal officials. Under that ruling, whose clarification has been sought by Malacañang to determine once and for all the extent of its powers over municipal officials, it was held that such officials were subject to disciplinary action only through the provincial boards of their respective provinces. Thus, Malacañang said, it has suspended action on Asistio's case pending this clarification.

The spokesman added that in the case of Manaloto, however, the Pasay City charter clearly gives the President power to take action against the city executive.

The President also received Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, Sr., who came to see the Chief Executive for final instructions before going on his 10-day trip to the United States. Cuaderno was sent to the United States by the President on a special mission to secure more loans. No details were given about the instructions.

June 25.—THIS morning, President Magsaysay received Rear Admiral Aleigh A. Burke, who called at Malacañang to pay his respects following his recent arrival here in the course of a farewell tour of U. S. naval bases in the Far East prior to his return to Washington to assume his new posts as chief of U. S. naval operations.

Accompanied by Ambassador Homer Ferguson, Rear Admirals Hugh Goodwin, A. P. Stores, and William R. Smedberg, Admiral Burke stayed at the President's office for 30 minutes.

EARLIER this morning, the President had a conference with Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently secretary of foreign affairs, who consulted him on the agricultural surplus discussions being held between technical panels of the foreign office and the U. S. embassy.

A delegation of high school teachers from Batangas, Batangas, headed by Schools Superintendent Gregorio Dimaano, also called to request the President to initiate amendments to the salary adjustment law for teachers so as to include secondary school teachers who, they said, depend only on tuition fees for salaries. They said that the present law benefits only national teachers and some personnel in the Department of Education.

Other callers this morning included Mayors P. A. Edaño of Masinloc and Norberto Ela of Sta. Cruz, both of Zambales, who asked for barrio schools. They were accompanied by Rep. Enrique Corpus.

SHORTLY before 11 a.m., the President left Malacañang and paid a surprise visit at the offices of the Department of Public Works and Communications and the Bureau of Posts.

The President perked up public works officials to finish construction of roads and feeder roads and to dig more artesian wells in order to hasten the development of the rural areas. He gave these follow-through directives to Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa, Undersecretary Rafael Contreras, Highways Commissioner Rodolfo Maslog, Public Works Director Julian A. Buendia, and Superintendent of Wells and Drills Primitivo de la Costa, in a surprise visit to the Department of Public Works this noon.

During the conference with department officials in Secretary Orosa's office, the President also talked to Bureau of Posts Director Felipe Cuaderno, Telecommunications Director Jose Alfonso, and Consulting Architect Federico Ilustre, regarding the activities of their respective officers.

Inquiring about the progress of the P25 million road-construction program under the bond issue, the President was informed by Secretary Orosa and Commissioner Maslog that P14 million worth of road contracts were under construction or were about to be advertised for bidding. Orosa explained that aside from the money from the bond issue, some P15 million from the gasoline and motor vehicles fund were being spent for road construction,

especially in Mindanao. In addition to this, the FOA had given some \$8 million worth of equipment and supplies for said construction all over the Philippines.

In his conference with Director Cuaderno, the President was informed that there was no truth to reports that mail coming to the Philippines was being tampered and censored. Cuaderno explained that the alleged tampering of envelopes was due to the stamping machine at the source of the mail. He added that one of the complainants had come to see him and was satisfied after this explanation had been given. The President congratulated Cuaderno for his work in running the Bureau of Posts.

Talking to Director Alfonso, the President inquired if the overhead telecommunications wires in the city could not be placed underground. Alfonso said that he was implementing the five-year program for his office and he hoped that within this period all the wires could be strung underground. He told the President that in connection with road construction in the provinces, the Bureau of Telecommunications was installing telephone facilities in the areas to facilitate communication.

Sighting Federico Ilustre, chief consulting architect, the President inquired about the plans for the Manila International Airport buildings. Ilustre said that his men were working hard to finish them as soon as possible.

The President saw the Philippine Port Commission members presided over by Public Works Undersecretary Rafael Contreras. When informed that the commission was discussing the allocation of Pier 14 to be used by the Japanese salvage team in connection with the salvage of Philippine vessels, the President said that he was ready to release the pier provided that the commission could find a berthing place for the fishermen who had been using the pier.

The President arrived at the office of Secretary Orosa about 10:50 a.m. and stayed up to 11:40 a.m., discussing roads and artesian wells with the public works officials. Before he left the Bureau of Posts Building, he inspected the public works cafeteria, going to the dining room, then to the kitchen where he sampled some banana fritters. All the corridors of the Bureau of Posts were filled with employees and visitors who cheered the President as he made the rounds.

The President was accompanied in his surprise visit to the Department of Public Works by his aide, Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo, and Assistant Press Secretary Guillermo V. Sison.

THE President today reassigned Gregorio Licaros, acting general manager of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), to the Central Bank to head the import-export department.

The President at the same time named Malacañang financial assistant Rodolfo P. Andal as acting general manager of the GSIS.

The President instructed Licaros, who has been auditor on leave of the Central Bank, to "straighten out" its import-export department and make this an efficient and constructive arm of the government's economic development program. He pointed out this office was one of the most vital economic agencies in the government, controlling as it did the importation of capital goods and raw materials essential for the country's development.

The President named Licaros to this post, which was formerly held by Cesar Lorenzo, on recommendation of Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno.

Andal has been Malacañang financial assistant since President Magsaysay's assumption of office. He is a member of the GSIS board of trustees.

Press Secretary J. V. Cruz said the Chief Executive planned to name a successor to Andal at Malacañang within the shortest possible time.

June 26.—THE President this morning conferred with AFP Chief of Staff Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas on the worsening lawlessness in Basilan City in Mindanao. He told Vargas to send troops to bolster the police force on the island city. He directed that capable officers be sent.

The President gave these instructions to Vargas upon learning of the deteriorating peace-and-order conditions in Basilan City. He was informed that atrocities continued to be committed in the island's rural areas, including burning of houses, robbery, and killings.

The Chief Executive said that he wanted normalcy restored in Basilan and he directed Vargas to report on the progress of the campaign to restore peace and order in that region.

AFTER conferring with General Vargas, the President retired to his ante-room and worked on state papers, breaking off at about 12 noon for lunch with his family.

After a short rest, he continued working again on state papers. At about 5:30 p.m. the President, accompanied by his aide, Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo, motored to the Santisimo Rosario church, where he stood sponsor at the wedding of Antonio Romeo Elayda and Baltazara Amacio.

In the evening at 8 o'clock, the President and the First Lady entertained Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Acker and their daughter Miss Tonajen Acker at dinner. Also present at the dinner were Ambassador and Mrs. Homer Ferguson and the Magsaysay children, Teresita, Milagros, and Ramon Jr.

June 27.—EARLY this morning, the President received a large delegation of Moro veterans from Lanao who requested help for the early release of their backpay certificates under Rep. Act No. 897.

Accompanying the Moro veterans, composed mostly of sultans and datus, was Rep. Domocao Alonto. The President assured them of government help and instructed acting PCAC Chairman Frisco San Juan to expedite the case. Under Rep. Act No. 897, backpay certificates of veterans are redeemable by the government in 30 years.

Oscar Arellano of the Manila Jaycees accompanied Dr. Evaristo Tolentino and Atty. Cesar Climaco, who had just returned from Vietnam where they assisted in the "Operations Brotherhood" project of the Jaycees. Dr. Tolentino and Atty. Climaco informed the President on the progress of the work being done by Filipinos in Vietnam and showed him a picture of Filipino nurses at work. According to them, there are at present 47 Filipino nurses engaged in "Operations Brotherhood."

Mayor Angel Medina of Ozamis City expressed his gratitude to the Chief Executive for the completion of the wharf in his city. He also asked the President to instruct the Department of Public Works and Communications to facilitate work on the irrigation project in his city.

Another early caller of the President was James McDougald of the *Sidney Sun and Herald* who paid his respects. The Australian newspaperman was accompanied by the editor of the *Philippines Herald*, Felix Gonzales.

Other early callers of the President included Rep. Francisco Ortega and his brother, the La Union Nacionalista gubernatorial candidate, Joaquin Ortega, Rep. Reynaldo Honrado, Govs. Alejo Santos of Bulacan and Ciriaco Abad of Batanes, and Pakistani Minister to the Philippines, Dr. Choudhri Khaliqzaman.

The President also received this morning Isaac Sherman, an American businessman, who informed him of his desire to set up a textile mill in the Philippines capitalized at P1 million.

Accompanied by Morris Wilson who will be assistant general manager of the projected mill, Sherman said he would set up the plant in Polo, Bulacan, and would start with 100 employees. He presented the President with \$100 in travelers' checks as his contribution to the Liberty Wells fund campaign.

The President received callers at his executive office until 12 noon.

A delegation from Imus, Cavite, headed by Marciano Tirona, director of the Imus Institute, presented the President with a framed copy of a resolution unanimously approved by the town's municipal council thanking him for vetoing the bill seeking the conversion of Imus into a city. The resolution said that the veto was another indication of the high regard the President had for the popular will.

Gov. Eliseo Quirino of Ilocos Sur informed the Chief Executive of the organization of the Tobacco Growers' Association at a convention held last May in Vigan. He made arrangements for officers of the association to pay a courtesy call at Malacañang following their recent election.

Gov. Damaso Samonte of Ilocos Norte requested funds for the repair of a high school in the municipality of Bacarra, while Gov. Federico Castillo of Mindoro Occidental sought the reservation of 9,000 hectares for settlement purposes and P5,000 for the construction of two barrio bridges in San Jose.

Rep. Jacobo Gonzales accompanied a delegation of farmers from barrio Limao, Calauan, Laguna, who asked for artesian wells.

Mayor Florante Villegas of Marikina, Rizal, also called to transmit the complaint of his townspeople regarding alleged exorbitant rates being charged by the electric light plant in their municipality.

Other late callers included Judge Vicente Llanes, who sought the reinstatement of suspended Mayor Lorenzo Formoso of Vigan, Reps. Constancio Castañeda of Tarlac and Roseller T. Lim of Zamboanga del Norte, and Gov. Juan Alberto of Catanduanes.

IN the afternoon, the President directed Gregorio S. Licaros, recently reassigned in the Central Bank to head its import-export department to clear that office of its backlog.

The President said that Licaros was bringing with him to his new office the administrative skill which he had exhibited during his incumbency as general manager of the Government Service Insurance System. With this experience, the President said, he was hopeful that Licaros could make the import-export department an efficient and constructive arm of the government's economic development program.

President Magsaysay said that Licaros' good record in the GSIS would serve him in good stead in his new job. The GSIS had been placed in ship-shape condition; hence he said, he was willing to release its former head to another job.

Also present at the conference was Rodolfo P. Andal, who had been named by the President as acting general manager of the GSIS.

The President also expressed confidence that Andal would be able to continue running the GSIS as smoothly as it had operated in the past. Andal is not a stranger to the GSIS, having been a member of the GSIS board of trustees for more than one year.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this afternoon was the guest of honor at the inauguration of the newly completed industrial and factory compound of the Norton and Harrison Company at Mandaluyong, Rizal.

In brief remarks during the occasion, the President said that he was very glad to note the progress of the company which was dealing in building materials and equipment because it was contributing to the economic development of the country. He added that the company was also doing its share in helping relieve unemployment.

Before delivering his brief remarks, the President was welcomed by James B. Norton, president and treasurer of the company. Norton also introduced the Chief Executive.

The President was shown the actual process of manufacturing concrete hollow blocks in the plant of Jackbilt Concrete Block Co., Inc., a subsidiary of Norton and Harrison which manufactures and distributes this building material. He pushed an electric button which set the machinery working. He showed great interest in the process, watching it from the mixing of the materials until the hollow blocks were formed and carted away for storage.

The Chief Executive arrived at 4 p.m. at the N & H compound accompanied by his presidential aide, Maj. Pat Garcia, Assistant Press Secretary Guillermo V. Sison, and Technical Assistant Jose Ansaldo. He was welcomed by company officials headed by Mr. Norton, Acting Rizal Gov. Vicente Javier, Rep. Eulogio Rodriguez, Jr., Eduardo Garcia, assistant manager of the company, and other officials. He left at 5 p.m. and returned to Malacañang.

June 28.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning received General Laurence Sherman Kuter, incoming chief of the U. S. Far East Air Force, who called to pay his respects following his recent arrival here in the course of a tour of U. S. airbases in the Far East.

Accompanied by Ambassador Homer Ferguson: Brig. Gen. Arthur Pierce, FEAF chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Bert Johnson, judge advocate general; Brig. Gen. William Lee, commander of the 13th U. S. air force and Col. William S. Evans, Gen. Kuter conferred with the President for about 30 minutes.

Gen. Kuter replaced Gen. Earle Partridge, who had been recalled to Washington recently to take command of the continental air defense. Also with him during his call at Malacañang this morning were Mrs. Kuter and Mrs. Pierce, who were received by Mrs. Magsaysay in the music room of the Palace.

THE President received callers at his executive office until 12 noon. Visitors consisted mostly of provincial delegations which requested funds for pet projects in their respective localities, such as artesian wells, barrio schools, irrigation systems, and barrio roads.

One such delegation was that headed by Gov. Adelmo Camacho of Bataan. The group included Deputy Gov. Angelino Banzon and Board Member Raymundo Galicia, and Mayors Faustino Vigo of Balanga, Lorenzo de la Fuente of Abucay, Manuel Santos of Orion, Federico Muli of Dinalupihan, Lorenzo Bongco of Orani, and Lorenzo Gonzales of Morong.

Other delegations were those headed by Reps. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz, Ramon Durano of Cebu, Carlos Tan of Leyte, Diosdado Macapagal of Pampanga, and Angel Castaño of Manila. Among the last callers were Gov. Decoroso Rosales of Samar, OEC Administrator Alfredo Montelibano, Agriculture Undersecretary Jaime Ferrer, Mayor Teodoro Santiago of Cabanatuan City, and Herbert Zipper, guest conductor of the Manila Symphony Orchestra.

THE President today took another step to bolster his land-for-the-landless program by expanding the membership of the Committee of Landed Estates from three to six and by directing NARRA Manager Eligio Tavanlar to start conferring with Central Bank and RFC officials on the amount of money needed by the NARRA for purchasing expropriating haciendas.

Immediately after receiving directive of the President, Tavanlar met with Acting Deputy Central Bank Governor Andres Castillo. Under its charter, the NARRA could borrow money from the CB and the RFC for the purchase and expropriation of landed estates.

The Committee on Landed Estates was expanded by the President to include Solicitor General Ambrosio Padilla as chairman and ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo and Tavanlar as members. The other three members of the committee are Agriculture Undersecretary Jaime Ferrer, Col. Guillermo Santos, chairman of the Agricultural Tenancy Commission, and Manuel Castañeda of the Office of the President.

At the request of Tavanlar, the President also instructed Commissioner of Public Highways Rodolfo Maslog to hasten the improvement and construction of more roads in the NARRA settlements. Col. Antonio Chanco, chief of

the engineer corps of the AFP, was also directed by the Chief Executive to provide immediately NARRA settlements with badly needed pre-fabricated schoolhouses.

Besides Tavanlar, the other early callers of the President were Reps. Erasmo Cruz and Rogaciano Mercado of Bulacan, Justino Nuyda of Albay, Ricardo Ladrado of Iloilo, Arturo Tolentino of Manila, Emilio Corlez of Pampanga, and Manuel Enverga and Leon Guinto, Jr., of Quezon; and Mayors Jose Celo of Calinog, Iloilo, Mamerto Bernardo of Pandi, Bulacan, and Ignacio Santiago of Polo, Bulacan.

At a press conference at 4 p.m. today, the President said he was against postponing the July 5 date set for the special session of Congress because "there are so many things we urgently need." He said he will meet with Congress leaders Friday, July 1, at lunch to finalize plans for the special session.

The Chief Executive said such measures as the bill to increase the borrowing capacity of the National Power Corporation, the land reforms legislation, the public works act with a P100 million appropriation for irrigation projects, and the home financing bill—all on the agenda for the special meet—are urgently necessary.

The President felt there was no adequate basis for some suggestions to postpone the special session until after the U. S. Congress had approved the Laurel-Langley agreement. Another special session to take measures to implement the agreement could be called after the November elections, he said.

In this connection, the President said his latest report from Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo about three days ago on the agreement's fate in the U. S. Congress continued to express optimism over its ultimate approval. The agreement already has passed the U. S. House of Representatives ways and means committee.

At the merienda-conference with newsmen, the President also:

- (1) Reiterated his advocacy of integration;
- (2) Announced he had issued a directive covering the detail of military personnel to civilian positions.

On the integration talks, the President discounted speculations that the plan had been "practically killed." He pointed out that on the contrary, the NP hierarchy had appointed a six-man group to meet with as many DPs to thresh out integration details.

The Chief Executive reiterated his desire that the MPM-WMPM be given at least one berth on the integrated senatorial ticket. Told that some NP senators had belittled the MPM-WMPM's political strength and following, the President took exception to this disparagement and said, "Just watch when the elections come."

He also said he favored another spot for the Citizens Party. He recalled he had invited CP President Senator Lorenzo M. Tañada to join in the integration plan but said he had not yet received a reply.

Repeating sentiments he had previously expressed, the Chief Executive said all this was based on "simple justice." He said the party in power had the duty to recognize and reward the contributions of all elements which had helped it to victory in the 1953 elections.

"If we cannot be fair to these people," he said, "how can we expect our masses, especially our barrio people, to have faith in the sense of justice of this Administration?"

Told by one newsman that Sen. Jose P. Laurel had urged an NP brass meeting to support him (the President) only until 1957 without committing themselves to his reelection, the President said he was not thinking of 1957. "That is still too far away," he said. "I am not thinking of that. What I am thinking of right now is how to help our people."

The President denied published reports that Malacañang had ordered an investigation of the V. Luna General Hospital administration in view of charges of neglect and inefficiency filed against it. He said a check of Malacañang records showed no such complaint had been filed.

The President confirmed that Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug and AFP Chief of Staff Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas had suggested the recall of Army personnel detailed to civilian jobs. He said he had drawn up a directive covering this matter under which Army officers holding civilian positions giving higher pay would be retained in such jobs and given the civilian salary. In reply to a question, he admitted that under this directive such Army officers as ACCFA Administrator Col. Osmundo Mondoñedo, Manila Railroad Co. Manager Col. Salvador Villa, and GSIS General Manager Capt. Rodolfo Andal would remain in their civilian positions.

Asked about NBI Director Maj. Jose Lukban, the President said that while Lukban's NBI job pays less than his Army salary, he hoped to persuade Lukban to sacrifice the difference of "a few pesos" in order to remain at the NBI.

June 29.—THIS morning, the President had breakfast at Malacañang with his house guests, U. S. Supreme Court Justice and Mrs. William O. Douglas and Miss Josephine Black, daughter of U. S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, who arrived in Manila at 4 a.m. today. Also present during the breakfast were Ambassador and Mrs. Ferguson.

After the breakfast, the presidential party motored to Nichol's air base where they took off in a helicopter for the resettlement project at San Luis, Pampanga.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay inspected the sprawling 800-hectare government resettlement project in San Luis, Pampanga, hometown of Huk supremo Luis Taruc, with United States Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas and Ambassador Homer Ferguson.

"The President met Mrs. Roberta Taruc, mother of Luis Taruc who earlier broadcast a motherly appeal to her son, Peregrino Taruc, and son-in-law, Tomas Calma, *alias* Commander Sol, to come down from their hideouts and discuss peace terms with government forces under Brig. Gen. Manuel Cabal. Mrs. Taruc was introduced by the President to Justice and Mrs. Douglas, Ambassador and Mrs. Ferguson, and Miss Black.

The Chief Executive and his party arrived at barrio Sta. Monica at exactly 9:30 a.m. by helicopters. They were met by Gen. Cabal, Col. Ricardo Papa, Mayor Samson Panlilio of San Luis, other ranking officers in the IMA, and about 300 residents of San Luis.

Justice Douglas, upon seeing the resettlement project, said that "Communism could be stopped if the same project is introduced in other nations affected by Communists." The project, he further said, could promote social justice. "Very outstanding" was Justice Douglas' answer when asked about his impression of the project.

Immediately after arriving, the President and his party proceeded to an open-air meeting place where they were briefed on the progress of the project by Brig. Gen. Cabal, Maj. Augusto Roa, Ricardo Labez, director of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, and Col. Nicanor Jimenez, chief of the Public Affairs Office of the Department of National Defense.

Maj. Roa, the officer in charge of the project called "Operations Katubusan," told the President and his guests that 473 families had already been resettled and 500 hectares now under cultivation and had been plowed by tractors. Another 180 hectares had been plowed by carabaos. He also said that the irrigation system in the barrio settlement, which could irrigate 600 hectares, would be ready by next month as scheduled.

Houses already constructed in Barrio Sta. Monica number 102 with 109 more transferred or being transferred. According to Maj. Roa, before the resettlement project got underway a year ago, the residents had to drink water from the Pampanga River or from insanitary dug-in wells.

Aside from road and health services in the project, the Army and the PRRM are also building playgrounds and repairing farm implements. Maj. Roa said that about 400,000 planting materials including supplies for pest control, were ready for the settlers. He pointed out that the land had not been cultivated for the past 13 years.

After the briefings, the President and his party were shown around the health centers and vocational shop. Locally-woven mats with special inscriptions were given by the shopworkers to President Magsaysay, Justice Douglas, and Ambassador Ferguson.

Others with the President in San Luis were James McDougal of the *Sidney Sun and Herald*, Dean Conrado Benitez, chairman of the PRRM, Miss Helen Benitez, Alfonso SyCip, and newsmen. The President and his guests left San Luis for Manila shortly before 11 a.m.

June 30.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today ordered Filemon M. Zablan, general manager of the National Power Corporation, to rush a sufficient supply of fertilizers to farmers in Batangas who had been reported facing the prospect of huge crop losses amounting to hundreds of thousands of pesos due to scarcity of fertilizers.

Telephoning from his office at Malacañang this morning, the President instructed the NPC manager to make a special plane trip to the Maria Cristina fertilizer plant in Lanao, procure the needed fertilizers and dispatch them to Batangas where they would be disposed of at prices within the reach of the suffering farmers.

Meanwhile, the President received a number of congressmen who urged him to call Congress to a special session as soon as possible for the purpose of considering various urgent measures, including the public works bill. Calling separately at Malacañang this morning, the solons emphasized the need for irrigation systems, power projects, and other urgent projects in various parts of the country.

Rep. Felix A. Fuentebella of Camarines Sur said that public works constructions would ease considerably the critical unemployment problem in the provinces. He warned that this is an election year and if a special session is not called “as early as possible,” the beneficial measures which Congress wanted to enact for the people might get held up. Rep. Jose Nuguid of Bataan and Celestino Juan of Nueva Ecija expressed the same sentiments.

The President followed a heavy schedule of callers this morning. He received visitors continuously from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SHORTLY before 12 noon, the President received a large delegation from the Moral Rearmament Mission composed of distinguished statesmen from 26 different countries all over the world. The group called to pay their respects following their recent arrival in Manila in the course of a tour of important Asian countries.

Joseph Scott, an 87-year old Catholic layman, who acted as one of the spokesmen of the group, informed the President that their organization included Moslems, Protestants, as well as Catholics who had decided to unite in the fight against Communism.

Peter Howards, author, in thanking the President for the warm hospitality with which they had been received here, said that the world expected the Philippines to play the role of peace-maker in the Pacific. Quoting Frank Buckman, initiator of the MRA, Howards said: “What we need is empty hands to be filled with work, empty stomachs to be filled with food, and empty heads to be filled with an idea that really satisfies.” Howards is author of the ideological play, *The Vanishing Island*, now being shown in Manila under MRA sponsorship.

During the call, the President was given an opportunity to see the MRA troupe perform. The troupe composed of 26 men and women from 12 different countries constituted themselves into a chorus and sang for the President, “The Whole World Is Thy Neighbor,” “Somewhere in the Heart of a Man,” and the Philippine National Anthem in Tagalog.

The Chief Executive was roundly cheered as he told members of the delegation the various methods he had employed in eradicating the Communist threat in this country. He congratulated MRA members for the fight they were waging against Communism.

Accompanied by Rep. Roseller T. Lim of Zamboanga del Sur, the delegation included Ole Bjern Kraft, former foreign minister of Denmark and former chairman of the NATO; John McGovern, member of the British House of Commons for 25 years; B. C. Okwu, member of parliament, Eastern Nigeria; Kanju Dato, former labor minister of Japan; Major K. T. Harawira, representing the King of Maoris in New Zealand; Dr. William Nkomo, founder and first president, African National Congress Youth League, South Africa; Reginald Owen, actor of stage and screen; and George L. Eastman, former president, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

THE President received no less than 800 persons during the whole morning, most of them members of large provincial delegations which sought help for their respective localities. Such delegations included those from Laguna accompanied by Gov. Dominador Chipeco and from Nueva Ecija accompanied by Rep. Celestino Juan.

Officers of the Philippine Association of Chemical Technologists submitted to the President a preliminary report of a survey they had undertaken of technical and professional manpower in the country. Headed by Benjamin Salonga, association president, the group explained that the result of the survey would be useful as a gauge of the relative economic, social, and cultural progress of various localities.

Salonga also explained that the survey would also be useful for vocational guidance, particularly in determining which professions are to be encouraged or discouraged in a given locality, considering the natural resources, job opportunities, and community needs of that locality.

Representatives of the Drug Manufacturers Association of the Philippines called to submit a resolution expressing support of the retention of the 17 per cent exchange tax. The group was headed by Isoceles Pascual, association president.

THE President was advised today by two business executives of plans to put up here milk plants using coconut oil. The two companies interested in establishing the milk factories are the Philippine Manufacturing Company and the Carnation Company of the United States, producers of Carnation milk.

The Chief Executive expressed satisfaction over the projects and encouraged the business firms to start soon. Those who informed the President about their companies' desire to establish plants here were Paul Parette, president of the Philippine Manufacturing Company, and Philip Kinzer, member and director of the executive committee of the Carnation Company.

Kinzer, who called on the President earlier accompanied by Alfredo Velayo and Washington Sycip, explained to the Chief that the milk to be produced here will be different from evaporated milk. He said milk from coconut oil has a lesser nutritional value and therefore can not be fed to babies.

Other early morning callers of the President were the members of the National Pantheon Board who showed the Chief Executive the sites from which they will choose the place for the national pantheon. Those who called on the Chief Executive were Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa, chairman; Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., Carlos da Silva and Anselmo Alquinto, members; and Carlos Beloso, secretary to the board.

A delegation from Romblon headed by Rep. Florencio Moreno and Gov. Jose Do. Mayor also called on the President. Ex-Gov. Manuel Solidum was also in the delegation. They expressed their gratitude for the appointment of Moreno as secretary of public works and communications.

Other callers were Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, Gov. Dominador Chipeco of Laguna, ex-Rep. Enrique Medina, and Reps. Alberto Q. Ubay of Zamboanga, Domocao Alonto of Lanao, Luminog Mangelen of Cotabato, and Lamberto Macias of Negros Oriental.

THE President ordered today a re-screening of all appointments made to the newly organized National Marketing Corporation (NAMARCO) with a view to insuring that none of these appointments shall violate any provision, particularly sections 11 and 17, of the NAMARCO law, Republic Act No. 1345.

The President issued the order after his attention was called to the possibility that appointments made to the NAMARCO board may have been in violation of these provisions.

The Malacañang spokesman emphasized that except for six board members, no officers of the NAMARCO had been appointed yet. He also stressed that the six directors were carry-overs from the old Price Stabilization Corporation (PRISCO) and that they had been named to their NAMARCO posts only in an acting capacity. The appointments had been recommended by Secretary of Commerce Oscar Ledesma, ex officio chairman of the NAMARCO board.

President Magsaysay directed that all officers and directors of the NAMARCO be requested to file sworn statements certifying that their participation in this government agency would not violate any provision of the NAMARCO law.

It had been alleged that some of the new directors of the NAMARCO fell within the prohibitions cited in the NAMARCO act.

The directors appointed in an acting capacity to the NAMARCO board were: Ramon Siytangco, German P. Neri, Isaac Saldaña, Hermogenes Dimagiba, Jose Castillo, Jr., and Alberto M. K. Jamir.

IN the afternoon, the President swore into office the newly elected national officers of the Philippine Veterans Legion headed by Col. Frisco San Juan, national commander, together with the newly-elected national officers of the PVL auxiliary. The ceremony was held at the Malacañang ceremonial hall. As he inducted the officers, the President put on his cap as a past vice-commander of the PVL.

The President also swore in Defense Undersecretary Jose Crisol and Brig. Gen. Eulogio Balao as life members of the association.

Col. San Juan presented the Chief Executive with a certificate of appreciation for his cooperation to the legion in its recent 10th annual national convention in Cebu City.

During the ceremony Col. Jose Razon, national president of the Reserve Officers Legion of the Philippines, Maj. Basilio Hernandez, and Gov. Alejo Santos of Bulacan, who is adviser to the reserve officers, conveyed to the President a resolution of gratitude passed by their organization earlier today thanking the President for the approval of House Bill No. 1817, now Republic Act No. 1382.

This Act grants to reserve officers with at least 10 years of active accumulated commissioned service security from reversion. It provides that those with 10 years service at the time of the approval of the Act should not be reverted into inactive status except for cause after proper court-martial proceedings, or upon their own request.

Col. Razon said that this Act benefited many reserve officers who have expressed their gratitude to the President for the security granted to them and to their families.

THE President afterwards received Labor Undersecretary Agapito Braganza and Agriculture Undersecretary Jaime Ferrer, who took up matters affecting their respective departments. He also received Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, who submitted Plan No. 10 on economic planning, which provides for the creation of the National Economic Council. The President has the plan, which may be put in operation with the start of the new fiscal year tomorrow (Friday, July 1), under consideration.

COL. Patricio Borromeo, commanding officer of the 4th Military Area, reported to Malacañang in the evening on the result of his investigation of the peace-and-order situation in Basilan Island.

The President last Sunday had directed Lt. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff, to send additional troops officered by capable man to the island to arrest the reported worsening peace-and-order situation in that area.

According to Col. Borromeo, there had been no marked increase of banditry in the sitio since his last inspection. However, he said that the following bandit groups still existed in the island: Yakan Mansalen with 6 to 8 followers, all armed with rifles; Yakan Johand with 5 to 6 followers, all armed with rifles; Haliw with 6 followers armed with blade weapons; and Moro Ingong with 6 followers all armed with rifles.

The bandit leaders mentioned are ex-escapees from the San Ramon penal colony. Borromeo added there was no indication of infiltration from Jolo. He said that he had ordered the provincial commander of Zamboanga del Sur to reinforce the troops in Basilan and to direct personally the combat operation in Basilan.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

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President's Month in Review: July, 1955

President's Month in Review: August, 1955

President's Month in Review: September, 1955

President's Month in Review: October, 1955

President's Month in Review: November, 1955

President's Month in Review: December, 1955

December 1.—STARTING the day with a breakfast conference with seven United States congressmen who are touring the Far East, the President had another strenuous day today, receiving no less than 800 callers.

The President's breakfast guests were U. S. Reps. Clement J. Zablocki, Richard Wigglesworth, John Harman, E. Ross Adair, Walter Judd, Marguerite Stitt Church, and Roberth C. Byrd. They are all members of the House committee on foreign affairs of the U. S. Congress, under the chairmanship of Rep. Zablocki. They were accompanied to Malacañang by U.S. Ambassador Homer Ferguson.

Also present at the breakfast were Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., and Ambassador Felino Neri.

After the breakfast the President presented each visiting solon with souvenir gifts.

THE President received callers from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Most of the callers were members of large provincial delegations which came to Malacañang to request financial assistance for the construction of roads, irrigation systems, waterworks, school buildings, health centers, and other pressing projects in their respective localities.

Among the delegations that called at Malacañang this day were that from Nueva Ecija, composed of municipal officials and farmers, led by Rep. Celestino Juan and Governor-elect Amado Aleta; that from Negros Occidental, composed of mayors-elect, accompanied by Gov. Valeriano Gatuslao; that from Cavite accompanied by Sen. Justiniano S. Montano, composed of town mayors; that from Nueva Vizcaya, headed by Rep. Leonardo Perez and Governor-elect Jose Espino; that from Bulacan headed by Rep. Rogaciano Mercado and Gov. Alejo Santos; that from Sto. Tomas, Batangas, headed by Mayor Francisco Jaurigue; that from Atimonan, Quezon, headed by Mayor Francisco Enriquez; and that from Mabalacat and Mexico, Pampanga, composed of farmers, accompanied by Rep. Emilio Cortez.

AFTER receiving the large delegations from Nueva Ecija and Pampanga, the President issued a written directive to the officials of the Department of Public Works and Communications, urging to speed up irrigation and barrio road projects all over the country. Both delegations asked the President for early completion of irrigation systems and barrio roads in their provinces.

The farmers from Mabalacat complained to the President that they could not transport their palay to the town from their barrio because they were not allowed to pass through a privately-owned lot which was the only way to the town proper. The President ordered First Military Area officers by telephone to investigate the situation and find a way by which to solve the problem.

AN invitation to speak before a conference of members of the Southeast Asia and Western Pacific Medical Women's Association on January 28 was accepted by the President. The invitation to the conference, which will be held in Manila, was extended to the Chief Executive by Dr. Fe del Mundo, vice-president of the International Medical Women's Association; Dr. R. Goquicoloy Arellano, president of the Philippine Medical Women's Association and Drs. Isabel Franco, Rosita R. Ramirez, and Lolita C. Besa.

Another invitation extended to the President was to the Asian Baseball Championship games which will be held this month at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. The invitation was extended to the President by "Chick" Parsons, Ralph Hawkins, and Mrs. Letty J. Paguia.

Senator Tomas Cabili, who just arrived from abroad, called on the President and reported on his observations on economics and rural development.

Three newly-appointed officials were sworn in by the President before their respective provincial leaders. Jose Cabatuando, incumbent mayor of Gapan, Nueva Ecija, took his oath of office as associate judge of the Court of Agrarian Relations in the presence of Rep. Celestino Juan and Governor-elect Amado Aleta.

The other two officials inducted by the President were Ormoc City Fiscal Marcial Fernandez and Leyte Provincial Assessor Nicolas Valeriano. Present at their oath-taking were Speaker Protempore Daniel Romualdez and Gov. Bernardo Torres.

Another induction was administered by the President to Doña Julia Vda. de Gonzalez of Rosales, Pangasinan, who took her oath as a member of the Nacionalista Party. She was accompanied by Mrs. Esperanza Osmeña and Mrs. Rosie Osmeña-Valencia, wife and daughter, respectively of former President Sergio Osmeña.

Other callers of the President were Secretary of Commerce and Industry Oscar Ledesma, Rep. Panfilo Manguera and Governor-elect Miguel Manguera of Marinduque, Rep. Ricardo Ladrado of Iloilo, Gov. Leon Fernandez of Sulu, and Allan O’Gorman, vice-president of Findlay Millar Timber Co.

THIS morning the President received Gordon Thiess, director of the international division of McGregor’s Sportswear, Inc. of America, who informed him of the new factory his company was putting up on Otis Street in Manila.

Accompanied by Murray Kern and Angel Syypap of the Syypap and Company, Thiess told the President that the new plant which would start operating in February would utilize as much local raw materials as possible and would employ about 100 Filipino workers.

A LARGE delegation of social workers representing a number of nearby provinces also called to urge the appointment of Mrs. Guillermina Rodriguez of the UNICEF as social welfare administrator. This group was headed by Iñigo Pendon, who acted as spokesman and Alfredo Muñoz.

The President told the group that he would study their recommendation. He said that there were many names already submitted to him for consideration for the post vacated by Senator-elect Pacita Madrigal-Warns, but that he was going slow on the appointment as he wanted to make sure that he would choose one who would do the job well.

A delegation from the Philippine Government Employees’ Association headed by Mrs. Nieves Baens del Rosario, PGEA president, invited the President to be guest speaker at the 10th anniversary celebration of their organization to be held at the Senate session hall on December 9.

Another delegation from Guagua, Pampanga, headed by Macario Guanlao, invited the Chief Executive to attend their town fiesta to be held on December 30. This group informed the President that all the Liberal Party leaders in the town were ready to affiliate themselves with the Nacionalista Party and would take their oath before him as part of the town fiesta celebration.

Officers of the Magsaysay-for-President Movement of Iloilo called to present a resolution written on a large, framed parchment paper pledging their support to the Administration’s program for social-economic reforms. The group included Marianito Militar, Romeo Dureza, Manuel Yngson, Fred Yapjoco, Enrique Debuque, and Maj. Nestor Golez, Iloilo City councilor-elect.

A large group of Malabon residents requested financial assistance for the construction of a dike to keep their homes from being inundated during rainy seasons. The group was headed by Alfredo Ilacad, president of the Hacienda de Tulay tenants association.

Mayor Norberto Amoranto of Quezon City also sought the President’s assistance in connection with a project put up by the city for the drainage of stagnant water in many of the city’s residential districts. Mayor Amoranto informed

the President that the incidence of H-fever in the locality had been attributed to the presence of stagnant water during rainy seasons.

Among the last callers were Governors Alejandro Almendras of Davao and Serapio J. Datoc of Zamboanga del Norte, who sought assistance for typhoon victims in his province.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay in the evening:

(1) Directed Judge Guillermo B. Guevara to investigate a report that some members of the monetary board were linked with the dollar quota frauds;

(2) Directed Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason to investigate and prosecute board of canvassers members who had deliberately submitted fraudulent election returns; and

(3) Directed immediate suspension of the grant of licenses for barter transactions under the No-Dollar Import Law, pending restudy of the rules and regulations governing such transactions.

The President was greatly disturbed upon reading a newspaper report alleging that some members of the Monetary Board were linked with the dollar quota frauds. He said if these reports were true, this was highly immoral if not actually illegal, and that he would ask the guilty parties to resign. If there is ground for criminal prosecution, the President said, this will also be done.

The President told Guevara to submit the results of his investigation of the matter in two days.

A newspaper report this morning said that several Monetary Board members had secured dollar allocations for themselves or for their relatives with the intention of peddling the licenses to other importers or producers.

The report, quoting CB sources, said that a high-ranking Monetary Board member was definitely established by the Import-Export department as "having secured a substantial amount of foreign exchange through pressure and influence without a definite business establishment to back him up."

The newspaper story added that another Monetary Board member had been found to have secured a large amount of dollar quotas during the earlier years of import control for a close relative who was later discovered to be a fake importer by CB investigation teams.

The newspaper report caught the attention of the President. He wanted it verified immediately by Judge Guevara.

President Magsaysay also directed Justice Secretary Tuason to investigate reported cases of board of canvassers members who had deliberately given fraudulent election returns in connection with the recent elections.

The President told Tuason to ferret out the parties who had committed these irregularities and prosecute them according to law.

There have been reports to the effect that some boards of canvassers had deliberately certified wrong election returns. The President said that this was one way of frustrating the people's will and it should not be tolerated. He said that if the guilty parties were punished, frauds would not be committed again in future elections.

President Magsaysay also told Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma to suspend action of all applications for barter transactions under the no-dollar import law. The President has announced his intention of conferring with Chairman Alfredo Montelibano of the National Economic Council and with Ledesma on a restudy and possible revision of the rules and regulations governing barter transactions with a view to minimizing the entry of non-essentials through barter. The President has pointed out that the No-Dollar Import Law was intended to conserve the country's dollar resources and to fortify the economy, and that this spirit should be reflected in barter transactions.

THIS evening, the President released the sum of P150,000 as initial aid for rehabilitation and relief of victims of the recent typhoon. The amount was released to the Social Welfare Administration officer-in-charge, Mrs. Amparo P. Villamar.

According to Mrs. Villamar, the relief funds would go to the flood victims who had been rendered homeless, in Dipolog, Zamboanga City, Dumaguete City, and Sibulan, Valencia, Bacong, Dauin, Zamboanguita, Siaton, and Bayayan, Negros Oriental. The funds will be used for the purchase of relief supplies, such as building materials, foodstuffs, clothing, and medicine for distribution to the victims.

The President this evening was one of the thousands of government employees who received their Christmas checks from the Government Service Insurance System.

As a member of the insurance system, the President received a GSIS check in the sum of P103.92. Federico Y. Arcala, assistant disbursing and collecting officer, and Silvino D. Joson, clerk of the Malacañang finance division, handed the check to the President.

The Chief Executive was very happy upon receipt of the check and he told Arcala and Joson to turn over the check to Mrs. Luz B. Magsaysay, who happened to be at the Malacañang reception room at the time. The President said the check would serve him in good stead come Christmas.

The President also received this evening a big Pampanga delegation of Nacionalista Party leaders headed by Gov. Rafael Lazatin, former Secretary Sotero Baluyut, Rogelio de la Rosa, former Rep. Amado M. Yuson, Mallorca Transportation General Manager Geminiano Yabut, several mayors, and other political leaders of Pampanga.

The President congratulated the Pampanga NP leaders for their successful strategy in the last elections which resulted in victory for the Nacionalista Party in their province. He entertained them with a *merienda*.

The President later in the evening was serenaded by the local Jaycees who sang several Christmas carols.

December 2.—VALERIAN Cardinal Gracias, archbishop of Bombay, India, who is here to attend the First Asian Congress of the Lay Apostolate to be held in Manila from December 3 to 9, was breakfast guest of the President at Malacañang this morning.

The President said that the holding of the conference here was a great honor to the Filipinos because it is an event that will promote closer religious ties among the peoples of Asia.

Cardinal Gracias was accompanied to Malacañang by local Catholic hierarchy, including Msgr. Egidio Vagnozzi, papal nuncio to the Philippines and the archbishop of Manila, Msgr. Rufino Santos. India Charge d' Affaires B. N. Nanda also attended the breakfast.

AFTER breakfast with the visiting cardinal, the President inducted into office Tomas Panganiban and Leon Dacayo as associate judges of the Court of Agrarian Relations in the presence of Presiding Judge Guillermo Santos, Mrs. Panganiban, and relatives of the new officials. After the induction, the President reiterated his advice that "those who have less in life should have more in law."

Gov. Juan Triviño of Camarines Sur later called and asked the President for financial aid in reconstructing the extensive damage to roads and barrio schools caused by the recent typhoon in his province. He also reported on the perennial flood problem caused by the inadequate outflow of the Bicol River.

The President said he planned to go to Camarines Sur to inspect the damaged area. He promised the construction of barrio schools in the typhoon-stricken area. He would also look into the possibility of installing flood control facilities in the province.

Other callers of the President included Sens. Jose Locsin and Francisco A. Delgado.

This morning Malacañang denied a report that barrio people of Sta. Cruz, Porac, Pampanga, were prepared to evacuate their place owing to “intensified Huk terroristic activities.” The denial was based on a dispatch from Col. Leoncio Tan, 1st MA commander at Camp Olivas, Pampanga, which stated that the battalion command post is situated right in that area and that “peace and order prevails.”

IN the afternoon, after his conference with the northern solons, the President worked on pending state papers.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay and solons from tobacco-growing provinces in the North reached agreement today on measures to protect all parties involved in the tobacco industry—producers, manufacturers, and consumers—within the framework of the national interest.

A Malacañang conference between the President and the legislators agreed that importation of foreign tobacco will not be authorized unless and until:

(1) Governors of tobacco-growing provinces have certified that all stocks in their provinces already have been purchased by ACCFA at the prices set under Republic Act No. 1194; and

(2) Local cigarette manufacturers have bound themselves to purchase through the ACCFA the next entire harvest of local tobacco growers through a contract concluded with a performance bond.

It was agreed that in no case will any importation of foreign tobacco be permitted before Jan. 1, 1956. The President reiterated that his order against unloading any unauthorized shipment which may arrive stood unchanged.

The conference in effect endorsed the actions taken by the Cabinet at its last meeting aimed at protecting the growing local tobacco industry. The Cabinet had laid down the same conditions precedent for the importation of tobacco.

To encourage another infant industry in the North, President Magsaysay and the legislators also agreed on the sending of an agricultural mission to Taipeh, China, to study methods of planting onion and garlic on that island. The mission will be headed by Rep. Antonio Raquiza, now governor-elect of Ilocos Norte. It was emphasized that the mission will be composed of actual onion and garlic growers so that the best possible advantages could be derived from the mission’s trip. Ilocos Norte and Batanes have been adjudged the best sites in the country for the planting of onions and garlic.

The President also promised to consider a suggestion of the legislators that any profits derived by the NAMARCO from the sale of onions and garlic be set aside as a fund for improving production methods and otherwise aiding the local onion and garlic industry. Planting experiments and refrigeration would be financed from the NAMARCO proceeds.

The Raquiza mission, will leave for Taipeh at the onset of the planting season in Taipeh. President Magsaysay during the conference communicated with the Department of Foreign Affairs to determine from the Philippine mission in Taipeh the appropriate time when the mission should leave.

Those present at the conference were Reps. Ferdinand Marcos and Raquiza of Ilocos Norte, Ramon Mitra of Mt. Province, Lucas Paredes of Abra, Paulino Alonzo of Isabela, Felipe Garduque of Cagayan, and Felipe Abeleda of Mindoro Occidental; Governor-elect Jose Valera and Board Member-elect Antonio Paredes of Abra; and Mayor Alfonso Tabora of Baguio City.

THE President in the evening received the members of the committee which he had created to determine the actual stock position of Virginia leaf tobacco in the country. The committee submitted its report.

The committee is composed of NEC Chairman Alfredo Montelibano as chairman, and Customs Commissioner Manuel P. Manahan, Internal Revenue Collector Silverio Blaquera, ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo, Vicente F. Barranco (representing consumers), and Ramon Ordoña, president of the Federation of the La Union FACOMAs, representing the tobacco cooperatives.

December 3.—THE President this day directed Brig. Gen. Manuel Cabal, Constabulary chief, to intensify the campaign against guerrilla backpay racketeers.

The President has received several reports about cases of persons who were allegedly cashing in on big money as a result of racketeering activities regarding the payment of guerrilla backpay. He said that he wanted the racketeers to be stopped from further mulcting the public. He told the PC Chief to intensify the campaign against these racketeers and to go hard after them. He also expressed the hope that pending guerrilla racketeering cases would be speeded up.

MALACAÑANG announced today that President Magsaysay requested Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason to appeal the decision handed down by Manila Judge Higinio B. Macadaeg on the controversial Kho Kun Commercial's garlic importation.

Malacañang explained that it was the President himself, not the Cabinet, who countermanded a previous directive issued on September 27, 1955, by the President through then Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro, allowing delivery of the garlic after the fulfillment of lawful requirements.

The Malacañang announcement added that on September 30, 1955, this directive was countermanded verbally by Castro on direct order of the President. This countermand was later affirmed at a Cabinet meeting held October 5, presided, over by the President himself, who wished to consult his advisory body on the matter.

Although the President usually does not have appointments with visitors on Saturdays, he received a few callers who consulted him on some problems confronting their provinces.

Rep. Manuel Cases of La Union, who was not able to see the President the other day to take part in the deliberations confronting the tobacco industry, called on the President to inform him that he agreed on the measures contemplated to protect all the parties involved in the tobacco industry. The measures had been decided at the President's conference with leading officials of the Ilocos provinces.

CASES said that he would file a bill in Congress establishing a cigar factory in the Cagayan Valley. The La Union solon said that a cigar factory was necessary because of the big demand for local cigars. He further said that the machinery for the proposed cigar factory would be bought from abroad.

The President also received Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez and Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Justiniano Borja, who reported on the damage wrought by the recent typhoon in Misamis Oriental. The two officials asked for aid.

Other callers of the President included Secretary of Labor Eleuterio Adevosio, Rep. Jose Corpuz of Nueva Ecija, MRR Manager Col., Salvador Villa, NBI Director Maj. Jose Lukban, Mayor-elect Carmelo Porras of Davao City, Councilor Benito Lopez of Baguio City, and a delegation from Zambales.

MEANWHILE, Assistant Executive Secretary Enrique Quema issued a directive, by authority of the President, to the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources ordering the immediate appointment of Maximo de Guzman, who had topped the examination given for the position of education and information officer of the Agricultural Tenancy Commission.

Malacañang's attention to the case was brought about by an editorial in a morning daily which reported that de Guzman was not appointed in spite of the fact that he topped the test for the position. Another was temporarily appointed by the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources to fill the position.

Assistant Executive Secretary Quema said that Malacañang had conducted an investigation of the case and found out that there was no nepotism involved as reported. Quema explained that the directive of Malacañang ordering the appointment of de Guzman was based on the facts that he (Guzman) topped the examination given for the position and that he is a civil service eligible and a veteran. Malacañang ordered the cancellation of the temporary appointment of Ciriaco Tawatao, Jr., a law graduate, who had been temporarily designated to the position in question.

December 4.—THIS morning, Valerian Cardinal Gracias, visiting, archbishop of Bombay, India, officiated at a special mass at the Malacañang chapel. He was assisted by Msgr. Vivien Dyer, the archbishop's secretary, and by Lit. Col. Nicolas Ortega, chief of the AFP chaplain corps. A small choir that included the President's daughter Milagros sang at the mass.

The President and members of his family heard the special mass. Also at the special mass were members of the Cabinet and their ladies, including Education Secretary and Mrs. Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., Health Secretary and Mrs. Paulino Garcia, Public Works Secretary and Mrs. Florencio Moreno, Budget Commissioner and Mrs. Dominador Aytona, and Mrs. Oscar Ledesma.

After the mass, breakfast was served the Palace guests.

Also at the breakfast was Msgr. Egidio Vagnozzi, papal nuncio to the Philippines who arrived after the mass.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning received a large delegation of fishermen from Rosario, Cavite, which marched to Malacañang to protest against certain regulations being strictly enforced by the Navy, the Bureau of Customs, and the Bureau of Fisheries.

Headed by Maximo Encarnacion, the delegation informed the President that the Bureau of Customs required licenses for mechanics and patrons of their fishing boats. Aside from these, the bureau also saw to it that each crew member was provided with a life-belt and the ship itself equipped with a medicine chest. Failure to comply with these regulations, the fishermen said, would result in a fine of from P50 to P500.

The Bureau of Fisheries, according to the delegation, also required crew members to have identification cards issued by the bureau at P1 each. Crew members found without the required identification card were penalized with a fine of from P10 to P20 each.

The delegation also informed the Chief Executive that fishing boats found without the required licenses were apprehended by Navy patrol boats, towed to Navy headquarters on Dewey Boulevard, and held there for as long as three hours with their hulls full of catch. After a summary investigation, the apprehended boats would be released with a warning, but later, their owners would be subpoenaed for questioning in the fiscal's office and later prosecuted in court.

Encarnacion, who acted as spokesman, said that the delay often caused the deterioration of cargos of fish and sometimes resulted in the loss of a whole night's catch. He said that the restrictions being imposed by the government agencies were causing hardship to the fishing industry, on which some 14,000 people in their town alone depended as their only means of livelihood. Encarnacion also said that other inhabitants of other fishing towns along Manila Bay were facing the same difficulties as a result of the restrictions.

The President said some of the regulations that the delegation complained against appeared to him justified and necessary for the protection and safety of the fishermen themselves. He added, however, that he shared their objections against the procedures which unduly prejudiced their livelihood; such as, the apparent indifference of investigators to the preservation of their catch.

For a thorough airing of their problems, the President ordered his aide, Maj. Pat Garcia, to summon Customs Commissioner Manuel P. Manahan, Commodore Jose M. Francisco, and the director of fisheries to a conference at

Malacañang tomorrow afternoon for the purpose of finding ways of relaxing the harmful government requirements and regulations. The President asked the delegation to send to the conference their representative who would submit all their complaints against the three government agencies so that they would be promptly threshed out at the conference.

December 5.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay received this day no less than 2,000 visitors, mostly members of large delegations. In view of the size of some of the provincial delegations that called in Malacañang, the President had to go down to the Malacañang grounds to meet them.

The provincial delegations requested financial assistance for the construction of roads, public markets, municipal buildings, artesian wells, irrigation systems, and other projects in their respective localities.

Among the provincial delegations were those from Orani, Bataan, headed by Board Member Raymundo Galicia and Mayor Lorenzo Bongco; from San Nicolas, Batangas, accompanied by Rep. Apolinario Apacible; and from Caloocan, Rizal, headed by Councilor Ricardo Brillantes. The last delegation composed of tenants sought the President's intervention on an ejectment case filed against them by their landlord.

THE President this morning told Susano R. Negado, general manager of the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority, that in the organization of the NWSA, employees of the Metropolitan Water District should not be laid off.

The President gave his directive in the course of an unannounced visit to the NWSA office this morning. He told Negado that he had received reports that the NWSA board had passed a resolution to the effect that MWD employees were to be laid off December 1, unless reappointed. The Chief Executive said that the MWD personnel should be allowed to continue working under the new set-up.

Negado assured the President that the MWD employees would be retained in office. He explained that the board resolution did not intend to by off any employee. As a matter of fact, he said, no employee had been fired except one who had been removed from office for cause.

The President said he was glad to get this reassurance from Negado. However, he warned that he did not want any intrigues in the new office, as this was not conducive to efficient management. He also said that no employee should be laid off just because "you do not like his face."

The President also directed that MWD funds should not be used in financing provincial branches or units of the NWSA so that Manila water consumers would not be affected. He added that each unit must have separate books of account.

The President was glad to know that in the next fiscal year an additional 4,000 wells were scheduled to be dug throughout the country under the newly organized NWSA. It has a section for artesian wells construction.

Other NWSA officials with whom the President conferred during his visit were Jesus Perlas, assistant manager; Emilio Agregado, treasurer; Rufo Fabugas, executive officer; Macario Juinio, auditor, Santiago F. de la Cruz, chief accountant; and Francisco Coquia, engineer.

FROM the NWSA office, the President went up to the National Planning Commission office on the fourth floor and conferred with Anselmo T. Alquinto, director of planning.

The President told Alquinto to speed up the work in the planning of such government resettlement projects as San Pedro Tunasan, Akle, Bongabon, and Panacan. He said he wanted these projects to be well laid out in order that they might become model communities.

The President also told Alquinto to hurry up the plan for the reconstruction of Intramuros. He said that he wanted a shopping center in Intramuros. These plans are necessary in connection with steps to have the law on the reconstruction of Intramuros amended.

When the President got into the elevator, two employees who wanted to use the elevator were at first shooed away by a security guard for fear of overcrowding. The President however told the employees to come in and join him in the elevator.

In the office of Director Alquinto the President talked with Miss Lydia Gueco, secretary, and inquired how she was getting along in her work. The President said that he was planning to induce one of his daughters to take a secretarial course.

The President arrived at the NWSA at 9:20 a.m. and left at about 9:55 a.m., to meet his callers in Malacañang.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today was presented with a plaque by the Women Lawyer's Association of the Philippines in appreciation "of his awareness of the needs of the country and devotion to the welfare of the nation; of his sincere desire to give the less fortunate a greater share of his administration's time, efforts, and funds."

The association of women lawyers was headed by Judge Natividad Almeda-Lopez and Mrs. Minerva Inocencio-Piguig, honorary president and president, respectively. The women lawyers also thanked the President for his encouragement of the participation of then colleagues in the government, particularly in the judiciary.

The plaque was handed to the President by Judge Almeda-Lopez at his study room, where he received callers. The President thanked the women lawyers for the award.

After reviving the women lawyers, the President met Manila boy mayor, Carmelite del Mundo, and his City Hall staff who took over the city government today in observance of Boys and Girls' Week. Boy Vice-Mayor Horacio Sese read before the President a resolution pledging the support and loyalty of the boys and girls of Manila in the Administration.

The boy mayor is a sixth grade pupil of Lakan-Dula elementary school. He was elected by delegates from public and private high and elementary schools in Manila. The boy and girl city officials were accompanied by the Manila assistant superintendent of schools, Estanislao Lopez.

A delegation of the Veterans Farmers Association petitioned the President to intercede in the early release of their lots in Tanay, Rizal. Catalino S. Maravilla, president of the association, informed the President that the group was composed of landless veterans. The President directed the Bureau of Lands to look into the case.

Gov. Damaso Samonte of Ilocos Norte headed a large delegation of Nacionalistas from his province who renewed their loyalty to the President. The delegation included ex-Rep. Vicente Lazo, the 10 elected NP Mayors, and incumbent board members, Pablo Raval, who took his oath as a new Nacionalista before the President.

Other callers of the President were Reps. Samuel Reyes of Isabela, Lucas Paredes of Abra, and Enrique Corpus of Zambales. Pedro A. Comindadro, PTA president of the Camuhagin elementary school in Gumaca, Quezon, also saw the President and requested aid for the school.

THIS morning, the President received a delegation of officials and employees of the Philippine Veterans Board who presented him with a check for P1,850 as their contribution to the Liberty Wells fund. The delegation was headed by H. F. Hilario, PVB chairman.

Mayor Higino Gopez of Porac, Pampanga, called to deny a report published recently in one of the metropolitan papers that the inhabitants of barrio Sta. Cruz of his town had been evacuating owing to Huk activities. Mayor

Gopez informed the President that he had investigated the report and found that not a single inhabitant had evacuated the barrio and that there were no Huks anywhere near his place.

A large delegation of political and civic leaders from nearby provinces urged the appointment of Mrs. Araceli Adriatico-Luna as social welfare administrator. This group was accompanied by Gov. Francisco Infantado of Mindoro Oriental.

The President reiterated that he was not yet filling up the position vacated by Senator-elect Pacita Madrigal-Warns. He said he already had a long list of applicants but that he was studying the matter carefully because he wanted to make sure that he would appoint one who would best promote the interest of the people.

Jeter Williamson, chief of police of Greensborough City, North Carolina, now on a tour of important cities in the Far East to observe police methods in this part of the world, called to pay his respects. He was accompanied by Lt. Col. Vicente Novales, chief of police of Quezon City.

Newly elected officials of Malabon, Rizal called to pledge their cooperation and loyalty to the Administration. Accompanied by Rep. Eulogio Rodriguez; Jr., and Gov. Wenceslao G. Pascual, the group was composed of Mayor-elect Paterno Aquino, Vice-Mayor-elect Agapito Cruz, and Councilors-elect Rafael Camins, Ernesto Lorenzo, Clemente Felix, and Mervin Buendia.

Other callers this morning were Reps. Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo, Angel Castano of Manila, and Marciano Lim of Samar; Governor-elect Esmeraldo Eco of Camarines Norte and Fernando Veloso of Samar; Ambassador Manuel Moran; and J. N. Vaughn, local manager of the Firestone Rubber Company.

THE President this afternoon formed a committee to study ways of lightening the burden on small fishermen through the modification of some laws affecting this group.

The President, appointed Commodore Jose M. Francisco as chairman and Cavite Governor-elect Delfin Montano, Felino Gabriel and Pascual Abueg, (both fishermen), two representatives of the Bureau of Customs, and one representative from the Bureau of Fisheries, as members.

The Chief Executive charged the committee with the study of the laws which impose severe tax obligations and other unnecessary burdens on poor fishermen with a view to proposing amendments to these laws during the next session of Congress.

The President conferred again this afternoon with a delegation of fishermen from Rosario, Cavite, to discuss their protest against certain regulations being strictly enforced by the Navy, the Bureau of Customs, and the Bureau of Fisheries. Present at the conference were Felino Gabriel and Pascual Abueg, Commodore Francisco, Customs Commissioner Manuel P. Manahan, and Fisheries Director Heracleo Montalban.

The President assured the fishermen that the committee would study very carefully their complaints and would prepare a draft of suitable amendments to avoid the heavy impositions upon them.

Commodore Francisco was told by the President that violations of some minor regulations by the small fishermen, which are administrative offenses requiring only fines, should not be dealt with very severely, but-first violators should be given warnings.

Later in the afternoon, the President formally received Cao Thai Bao as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of Vietnam to the Philippines at ceremonies held at the Malacañang ceremonial hall.

In presenting his letters of credence to the President, Minister Bao expressed his country's "most sincere appreciation of the recognition which Your Excellency has extended to the sovereign status of Vietnam and which

culminated in the establishment of diplomatic missions between the Republic of the Philippines in Saigon and the Republic of Vietnam in Manila.”

The Vietnamese minister said that the growth of friendship between the Philippines and Vietnam “was manifested by the indefatigable efforts of the personnel of the “Operation Brotherhood”. He said: “These dedicated volunteers are undertaking a wonderful job for understanding among our two peoples. I should say the Vietnamese people are very grateful for the tremendous work in helping nearly one million of the Vietnamese refugees who had fled from the Communist yoke to seek peace and security in the free world.”

President Magsaysay in his response expressed gratification for the steady growth of friendship and cooperation between the Filipinos and the Vietnamese. He said he took pride “in accepting your government’s recognition of, and appreciation for, the contribution of Operation Brotherhood’ to bring aid to the millions of Vietnamese refugees and their valuable efforts to foster closer understanding and mutual sympathy between our two peoples.

After the presentation of credentials, the President and Minister Bao exchanged toasts.

The ceremonies were attended by Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia, Counselor Octavio L. Maloles, Philippine Minister to Vietnam Mariano Ezpeleta, Counselors Gauttier P. Bisnar and Benito Bautista, Chief of Protocol Jose S. Estrada, Assistant Chief of Protocol Pedro Angara-Aragon, Ceremonial Officer Iluminado Torres, Assistant Ceremonial Officer Antonio Prats, and another assistant, Miss Aida Antonio. The President was assisted by Acting Executive Secretary Mariano Yenke, Jr., Malacañang Protocol Officer Manuel G. Zamora, Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo, Major Pat Garcia, and Capt. Agerico Palaypay.

Minister Bao was accompanied by Consul Ta Thai Buu.

In the evening, Malacañang released the report on the findings of the presidential committee which had been created by the President to determine the actual stock position of Virginia leaf tobacco in the country.

In a press conference this evening, the President said that he would submit the committee report to the Cabinet for its considerations. Meanwhile, the President said he was still awaiting reports from, provincial governors of tobacco-growing provinces on their respective stock positions. He was also expecting the manufacturers to commit themselves formally in a memorandum to purchase all locally grown Virginia leaf tobacco next year through the government or directly from the growers themselves.

The presidential committee recommended that cigarette manufacturers be allowed to land and unload imported Virginia leaf tobacco to the extent of nine million pounds, the estimated deficiency from January 1 to June 30, 1950. The President reiterated at the press conference that in no case will any importation be authorized before January 1, 1956.

The committee stipulated that the manufacturers should pay the corresponding customs duty on the tobacco and waive, in written instruments, “whatever rights or claims they may have against the government resulting from payments of said duties in advance.”

The report also recommended the creation of a continuing committee consisting of a representative each from the National Economic Council, the Central Bank, the Bureau of Customs, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the ACCFA, the manufacturers, the tobacco growers, and the cigarette consumers, for the purpose of “coordinating the final determination of the deficiency of Virginia leaf tobacco available for manufacture and its corresponding authorization for importation—“

December 6.—THE President this day authorized the release of P1,740,238.22 from unexpended balances of the Armed Forces for payment of outstanding obligations for retirement gratuities and gratuities of widows and orphans of officers of the AFP.

The President gave the authority in the course of his conference with Acting Executive Secretary Mariano Yenke, Jr., at his office at Malacañang this morning. During the conference, the President acted on a pile of pending state papers brought to him by Secretary Yenke.

The Chief Executive started receiving callers at his study about 9 a.m.

A delegation of retailers in different public markets of Manila called to protest against the plan to close the NAMARCO agencies distributing commodities direct to market vendors. Accompanied by House Majority Floor Leader Arturo M. Tolentino, the delegation objected to the proposed creation of associations composed of private persons who would undertake the distribution.

Two separate delegations called to present petitions for the revocation of Department Order No. 5 issued by Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., providing for religious instruction in all public schools, on the ground that it was unconstitutional. One of the delegations was composed of Judge Guillermo Guevara president of *The Spirit of 1896*, former Justice Roman Ozaeta, and Dean Jorge Bocobo. The other delegation was from the Church of Christ, headed by Gregorio C. Larion.

A delegation from the National Press Club invited the President to inaugurate the new NPC building erected near the southern end of the Jones Bridge. Headed by Teodoro Valencia of the *Philippines Herald*, president of the NPC, the group included Jose D. Aspiras of the *Evening News*, vice-president; Virtudes Guinto and Francisco de Leon of the *Manila Chronicle*; Cita Trinidad of the *Manila Times*; Silvino Caparas of the *Daily Mirror*, Mabini R. Centeno of the *Evening News*, Celestino M. Vega of the *Bagong Buhay*; and Pablo Bautista of the Roces Publications.

Newly elected officials of Makati, Rizal, called to pledge their loyalty. Headed by Mayor-elect Maximo Estrella, the officials were Vice-Mayor-elect Juan Patag, and Councilors-elect Teotimo Gealogo, Justino Ventura, Benjamin Bautista, and Jose Mayor.

Senator-elect Domocao Alonto and Gov. Salvador Lluch of Lanao accompanied a delegation which submitted for approval the plans for their province P300,000-capitol building to be constructed in Dansalan City. The President approved the plans and authorized, the release of P50,000 to start the construction of the building.

Among individual callers were Senator-elect Francisco Rodrigo; Reps. Gaudencio Abordo of Palawan, Jose Corpuz of Nueva Ecija, Wenceslao Lagumbay of Laguna, Jose Roy of Tarlac, and Godofredo Ramos and Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz; Govs. Dominador Chipeco of Laguna, Conrado Estrella of Pangasinan, Rafael Lazatin of Pampanga, and Alejo Santos of Bulacan; Governors-elect Jose Briones of Cebu and Delfin N. Montano of Cavite; Mayor Pedro Pascasio of Pora, Tarlac; Toribio Teodoro of *Ang Tibay*, who had just arrived from abroad; and Msgr. William Brasseur, bishop of Baguio City.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today assured a large delegation of National Language students from all the universities and colleges in Manila that the Administration would study bills and measures promoting Tagalog as the national language.

The President spoke to about 1,500 Tagalog students who were accompanied to Malacañang by Director Jose Villa Panganiban of the Institute of National Language and by Baltazar Villanueva.

Oscar Suarez Manalo, spokesman of the group, requested the President to give assurance that bills or measures giving the national language its due recognition shall be enacted. The students urged the enactment of a bill which would provide optional 12 units of national language for every college student. The students also proposed that a college student might be made to choose between Tagalog and any foreign language.

The president met the students at the reception hall, where they "mobbed" him and cheered him, as they sought to shake his hand. He talked to them in Tagalog and said that his interest in the national language could be proved by

the fact that he has been using it in his daily conversations with the people who call on him. The students carried placards citing the importance of the national language.

BEFORE meeting the students, the President received members of the National Family Life Workshop who are sponsoring the current observance of Family Week. They reported that their members and representatives have been working directly with families in the rural areas.

According to Miss Helen Benitez, chairman of the National Family Life Workshop, 39 civic organizations, private and public, are affiliated with the NFLW. The President congratulated the members for the wonderful work they are rendering to the families in the barrios. Mrs. Maria Fe G. Atienza, Dr. Dalmacio Martin, Miss Carmen Adriano, and other officers of the association were among those in the delegation.

The officials and student officers of the College of Commerce of the University of Santo Tomas also called and sought the aid of the President to start off their 1955 Christmas Fund drive. The President contributed to the fund. The UST delegation was composed of Regent Fr. Cecilio de la Pinta, O. P., Dean Mariano Apacible, Atty. Jose Papa, Alberto Guevarra Jr., Ernestina Apacible, Susan Priscilla, and Teresita Merchant.

Rep. Jose Nuguid and Governor-elect Emilio Naval of Bataan also headed a delegation from their province. They sought the early completion of public works projects in their province.

Among the late morning callers of the President were Reps. Emilio Cortez of Pampanga, Felipe Garduque of Cagayan, Jose Roy of Tarlac, and Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz.

IN the evening, the President gave a formal dinner in honor of Valerian Cardinal Gracias, archbishop of Bombay, India.

Among those present were Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez Speaker Protempore Daniel Z. Romualdez, Msgr. Egidio Vagnozzi, Supreme Court Chief Justice Ricardo Paras, Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., Acting Executive Secretary Mariano Yenke, Jr., Justice Alejo Labrador, Justice Sabino Padilla, and Press Secretary J. V. Cruz.

December 7.—THE Cabinet in its regular meeting this day, presided over by President Magsaysay:

(1) Turned down a request of the Philippine Cigar and Cigarettes Manufacturers Association for the importation of around 23,000,000 pounds of Virginia leaf tobacco to fill the deficiency in Virginia leaf tobacco;

(2) Approved a note to be exchanged between the Philippine and the Japanese Governments authorizing the importation by Japan of 22,688 metric tons of Philippine “D” sugar and 10,000 metric tons of muscovado to be effected prior to Dec. 31, 1955; and

(3) Modified an old proclamation issued by the late President Quezon so as to allow government employees to acquire public lands within the provinces in which they are employed and permitted the employees to file then: applications directly to the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources without the previous approval of their immediate chiefs;

IN the course of the Cabinet meeting, the President also signed Proclamation No. 236, declaring the period from January 9 to 15 of every year as Livestock and Poultry Production Week.

ON recommendation of Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia, the President approved the request of the Argentine Government for the *agreement* of the Philippine Government to the proposed appointment of Raul Fernando de Olano as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of Argentina to the Philippines, vice Minister Carlos Alberto Passini Costadoat.

The President with the concurrence of the Cabinet, disapproved the request of the Philippine Cigar and Cigarettes Manufacturers Association to import around 23,000,000 pounds of Virginia leaf tobacco. The request, which was coursed through ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo, said that the importation would fill the deficiency in leaf tobacco and guarantee continued operation of the tobacco factories.

The Cabinet will meet at a special session Friday to act finally on this question and also take up other matters on the agenda left unacted upon.

On recommendation of Vice-President Garcia and after a discussion led by NEC Chairman Alfredo Montelibano, the Cabinet approved the purchase by Japan of Philippine sugar in exchange for Japanese products, as follows:

(a) Japan will authorize the importation of 22,688 metric tons of Philippine sugar (referred to as “D” sugar) at U. S. \$110 c. i. f. Japan, per metric ton; and 10,000 metric tons of muscovado, at \$103 c. i. f. Japan, per metric ton.

(b) The shipment of the “D” sugar from the Philippines to Japan shall be effected prior to December 31, 1955; and

(c) The payments for the “D” sugar and muscovado shall be made in yen calculated at the rate of Y360 per US \$1 and shall be deposited in the Bank of Tokyo, designated by the Philippine Government as a non-interest-bearing yen escrow account in the name of the Central Bank of the Philippines.

In the discussion of the revision of the Quezon order banning employees from applying for public lands in provinces where they work, the President said that it would be unfair to the employees to apply for lands in places far from their places of employment. He said that under the liberalized order which would enable employees to acquire lands in the provinces where they are employed, they could spend their after-office hours or their vacation days in cultivating their lands and thus assure themselves of some extra income for the stability of their families.

The President further liberalized the order by removing the requirement that the employee should first secure the approval of his immediate chief before applying for public lands. He said that this involved too much red tape. All the employees will have to do now is to apply directly with the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Turning to Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez, the President congratulated him for the work of the department in eradicating the rinderpest outbreak which erupted sometime ago in Alabang, Rizal. Rodriguez said that his department was taking all the necessary precautions to prevent the recurrence of the epidemic in the future. He said that regulations regarding the importation of animals from abroad were being strictly enforced by his department. In this connection, the President reminded Secretary Rodriguez to intensify the campaign for dispersing animals among individual farmers.

EARLIER this morning, the President received Governor-elect Esmeraldo Eco of Camarines Norte, who requested the release of P12.000 from frozen pre-war deposits of the town of Paracale to be utilized for rural improvements in the municipality. With Gov. Eco was Board Member-elect Marcial Pimentel of the same province.

Among other callers of the President before he convoked the Cabinet meeting at 10 a.m. were Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez and Gov. Conrado Estrella of Pangasinan.

IN the afternoon, the President went horseback riding at Fort McKinley, together with Maj. Pat Garcia, presidential aide.

December 8.—AFTER hearing mass with his family on the occasion of Assumption Day, the President had an early breakfast with Mrs. Magsaysay and their children.

After breakfast, the President called up station DZMY to transmit his contribution of P100 to the Christmas Festival fund drive.

AT 9:30 a.m., the President accompanied by his aide, Maj. Pat Garcia, motored to the Nichols Air Base and took off aboard the presidential plane *Pagasa* for Castillejos, Zambales. Also with the President were his brother Jesus and Antonio Diaz.

Upon arrival in Zambales at 10 a.m., the President motored to barrio Barrin, where the presidential party lunched with the President's parents.

After lunch, the President went over the agenda of the special meeting of the Cabinet scheduled for tomorrow.

The President returned to Manila at 2:30 p.m. In the evening, he worked on state papers.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay in the evening ordered the release of P1 million from the contingent funds for reconstruction work in the areas struck by the recent typhoon.

Malacañang said that the Social Welfare Administration has substantial supplies and funds for the purchase of food, clothes, medicine, and other commodities which it is distributing to the typhoon victims. The Philippine National Red Cross is also distributing relief goods in the typhoon-stricken areas. However, Malacañang said that the President had released a few days ago P150,000 to the SWA just in case this relief agency might need it. He further instructed the SWA to inform him if more funds were needed so that he could release additional amounts.

In releasing the P1 million, the President told Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona to allocate the amount depending on official figures submitted by the Department of Public Works and Communications. Malacañang has awaited official reports on the extent of damages to public works such as roads, bridges, and other buildings, before releasing sums for this purpose. These data were necessary to achieve coordination in the construction work and prevent wastage of funds, Malacañang said.

December 9.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning received the four contending teams in the second annual Asian baseball championship games to be held at the Rizal Memorial Stadium from December 10 to 18.

Accompanied by PAAF baseball officials, the teams were those from Japan headed by Nobuo Fujita, director of the Japan Amateur Baseball Association; from Nationalist China headed by Su Chia Ho, deputy chairman and chief secretary of the Taiwan Baseball Association; from the Republic of Korea headed by Hyo Joen Shen; and the Philippine team headed by Norberto Raymundo, coach of the defending champions.

During their call, the visiting foreign teams which were received at the Palace study, presented the President with souvenirs as tokens of goodwill. The Japanese team gave a Japanese doll enclosed in a glass case; the Chinese team presented a miniature sailboat; and the Korean delegation gave the Chief Executive their team's pennant.

Accompanying the players to the Palace were Chick Parsons, president of the Baseball Federation of Asia; Mrs. Letty Pagua, chairman of the PAAF baseball committee; and Ralph Hawkins, Marciano Villanueva, and Pablo Belmonte, committee members. The PAAF officials formally invited the President to throw the first ball at the opening of the meet tomorrow afternoon.

A DELEGATION of collectors of customs all over the Philippines now on a 10-day conference in Manila called to present a resolution pledging their loyalty and support to the President's program of "efficient, clean, and honest government."

Customs Commissioner Manuel P. Manahan, who accompanied the group, informed the President that the conference, which was the first ever held by customs collectors, was for the purpose of discussing the effective implementation of new laws like the No-Dollar Import Law and the Laurel-Langley Trade Agreement. The conference which ends tomorrow also will discuss customs practices with a view to coordinating, improving, and standardizing them throughout the country, Manahan said.

During their call, the President impressed upon the customs collectors the importance of their jobs which, according to him, demand utmost integrity and honesty. He urged the officials to perform their duties with “missionary zeal” and with dedication to service.

A large delegation of Igorot farmers called to present a petition requesting the eviction of aliens from farms they were allegedly occupying and operating illegally under some kind of arrangement with Filipino concessionaires in the Mount Data National Park Reservation and the Central Cordillera Forest Reserve in Mt. Province.

THE PRESIDENT this morning swore in several local political leaders who affiliated with the Nacionalista Party. Among those sworn in were Mayors-elect Pilar Tolentino-Rodriguez of Macalelon, Quezon, wife of former NPC General Manager Filemon Rodriguez, who ran as an independent during the last elections; and Lope Daez of Meycauayan, Bulacan, an LP.

Witnessing Mrs. Rodriguez’ induction were Governor-elect and Mrs. Leon Guinto, Sr.; and Mayor Bienvenido Marquez of Padre Burgos and Ramon Oliveros of Quezon, Quezon. Present at Mayor Daez’ induction was a delegation from Meycauayan accompanied by Gov. Alejo Santos.

The President received callers at his study until 11:30 a.m. Then he proceeded to the Cabinet room, where he presided over a special meeting of the Cabinet.

Other callers included Speaker Protempore Daniel Z. Romualdez; Senators-elect Decoroso Rosales and Pedro Sabido; Rep. Fernando Pajarillo and Gov. Wilfredo Panotes of Camarines Sur; Rep. Leon Guinto, Jr., of Quezon, who requested P35,000 for typhoon victims in his district; Rep. Panfilo Manguera of Marinduque; Gov. Juan F. Triviño and Board Member-elect William Buquid of Camarines Sur; and Councilor-elect M. Villafuerte of Naga City, who invited the President to their inaugural ceremonies on January 2; Governor-elect Juan Frivaldo of Sorsogon; E C. Kline, executive vice-president of the Electric Storage Battery Corporation of New York, U. S. A.; Gov. Damaso Samonte of Ilocos Norte; Gov. Serapio J Datoc of Zamboanga del Norte, who requested P10,000 for typhoon victims in his province; Vice Mayor-elect Ramon Morada and Artemio Vergel de Dios of Davao City; and Al Valencia.

THE CABINET with President Magsaysay presiding approved in principle today the recommendation of the presidential committee on the importation of Virginia leaf tobacco subject to the finalization by the secretary of justice of the terms of the performance bond to be put up by local tobacco manufacturers to assure that they will purchase the entire local production of Virginia leaf tobacco, to the extent of at least 33,000,000 pounds, next year.

Under the Cabinet’s action, importation after January 1, 1956, was approved to the extent of 4,000,000 kilos. The cigarette manufacturers had requested 24 million pounds (or 11.5 million kilos).

Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason was directed to study and fix the terms of the performance bond to be required from local cigarette manufacturers to back up their commitment to purchase next year’s entire harvest. After Secretary Tuason has approved those terms, he will notify the President, who will then issue the authorization for the importation. Under Republic Act No. 1194, only the President may authorize the importation of Virginia leaf tobacco.

The presidential committee headed by NEC Chairman Alfredo Montelibano reached an estimate of next year’s deficiency after canvassing all provincial governors of tobacco-growing provinces on their respective stock positions. The governors have reported that their local tobacco products suitable for cigarette manufacture have already been bought.

THE PRESIDENT today conferred with Ambassador Felino Neri, chief Philippine reparations negotiator, on the latest news reports from Japan on the reparations question. No announcement was made after the conference, but it was learned that in addition to discussing the war debts issue, the President and Neri reviewed the entire field of Philippine-Japan relations in the light of these press dispatches.

After the conference and by way of commenting on today's news reports from Japan indicating that the Japanese Government insists on embodying the eight hundred million dollar reparations formula in two agreements and reporting that the Philippines may agree to renouncing part payment in cash, Neri issued the following statement:

"Our position on the settlement of the reparations question is clear and remains unchanged. We have taken pains to stress this fact in the past on more than one occasion. We stand firmly by the formula agreed upon by the representatives of the two Governments in Tokyo last May. We "have not agreed to any modification thereof . . ."

IN the afternoon, the President urged government employees to continue giving their utmost to the service of the government "so that we may truly keep faith with our people."

Calling the government employees his fellow workers and fellow servants of the people, the President said: "It is only by working together with understanding and harmony that we can serve our country faithfully and efficiently." He added, "You are the grass-roots basis of the success or failure of our government."

The President was the guest of honor of the Philippine Government Employees Association which celebrated its tenth anniversary by holding the First Government Employees Assembly at the session hall of the Senate. The President was introduced by Mrs. Nieves Baens-del Rosario, PGEA president.

After his speech, the President awarded PGEA diplomas to outstanding legislators: Reps. Vicente Peralta of Sorsogon, Serafin Salvador of Rizal, and Panfilo Manguera of Marinduque and Sen. Enrique Magalona (absent); and the exemplary career officials—PHHC General Manager Vicente Orosa, Plant Industry Director Marcos Alicante, Public Works Director Julian Buendia, Agricultural Extension Director Cayetano Pineda, and Internal Revenue Collector Silverio Blaquera.

In the course of his speech, the President said that he was deeply impressed by the association's practice of selecting outstanding public servants and honoring them with the annual awards. He said:

"By honoring those men and women in the public service who had been outstanding examples of honesty, efficiency, dedication, and loyalty, you help create a state of mind among public servants that is wholesome and beneficial to our government and to our country. Such a sentiment among government workers themselves supplemented by public opinion and the deterrent influence of our penal laws, is our surest means to good government."

Following his speech, the President held an open forum during which he heard complaints and recommendations of government employees.

To the request of the employees for a lot whereon they could build the PGEA building, the President said that they could be allotted a piece of land near the Quezon Memorial in Quezon City. He told Mrs. Magdalena Tuason, who spoke for the employees, to confer with PHHC Manager Orosa about the details of the lot.

The President was given a long ovation when he officially informed the employees of the Cabinet decision last Wednesday liberalizing the order regarding the granting of public lands to government employees.

The President was given another applause when he expressed himself as against the mass laying off of government employees if and when the reorganization commission's plan to streamline the government is put into effect. He recalled his own sufferings when his father had been laid off as a school teacher way back in 1914 and said that he did not want the same sufferings to be experienced by his fellow workers and employees.

An employee named Baltazar Bernal in the office of the city auditor of Baguio City got a break when the President took down his name to be recommended for promotion. Bernal complained that after working in the government for about 30 years he was receiving only P200 a month. Bernal thanked the President for his sympathetic understanding of his request.

Regarding the request of Bernal that the retirement law be amended so that any employee with 30 years service could be granted optional retirement irrespective of age, the President said that the matter should be referred to congressmen for their consideration.

To the request of an old employee from Bulacan that barrio leaders be allowed to address their problems directly to the President, the President said that all they had to do was to send a telegram to Malacañang and their request would be granted. "I am here to serve you," the President said.

Regarding the complaint of one delegate that under the minimum wage law laborers received the same pay as other employees with better technical training, the Chief Executive said that the government reorganization commission made a study of this matter and that if only the government could collect more income there might be enough funds for the purpose.

The President also requested that he be given the plan of how the Council of Personnel Administration office was working out under the office of Director Pineda, so that his model plan could be distributed to other offices for more effective government service.

After the bull session with the employees, the President appealed to the employees to carry on their service with missionary zeal because public service was a public trust and "we cannot afford to fail the people."

The President left Malacañang at 4:15 and arrived at the Senate session hall at 4:30 p.m. He was accompanied by Acting Executive Secretary Mariano Yenko, Jr., his aide, Capt Agerico Palaypay, and his brother Jesus.

AFTER leaving the Senate session hall at 5:20 p.m., the President proceeded to the Koppel building, where he viewed pictures of the Philippines on exhibit under the sponsorship of Shell Company. He was very much impressed by the display of pictures showing beautiful Philippine scenes and pictures of Philippine progress. The show was called a Photographic Picture Story of the Republic of the Philippines.

The President was received by Mr. G. H. W. Churchill, general manager of Shell Company, Philippines.

December 10.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning received in his study room Admiral Ross McIntyre (retired), former surgeon general of the U.S. Navy, who paid a courtesy call.

McIntyre, who had been a personal surgeon to the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt, is here as guest of honor of the joint convention of the Philippine College of Surgeons and the Philippine Chapter of the International College of Surgeons.

In the course of his conversation with the Chief Executive, McIntyre praised the health program undertaken by the Administration, which gives emphasis to the rural areas.

McIntyre was accompanied to the Palace by U. S. Ambassador Homer Ferguson, Dr. Gumercindo Garcia and Dr. Fortunato Guerrero, presidents of the Philippine Chapter of the International College of Surgeons and the Philippine College of Surgeons respectively, and Ray Higgins.

Later, the President received Valerian Cardinal Gracias, who made a farewell visit. Cardinal Gracias leaves for Bombay today.

Cardinal Gracias said that the moral support the President had given was one of the factors which made the Asian Conference of Lay Apostolate a success. He added that he was very grateful for the hospitality of the Filipinos.

Cardinal Gracias was accompanied to Malacañang by Msgr. Egidio Vagnozzi, papal nuncio; Msgr. Rufino Santos, archbishop of Manila; and Msg. Vivian Dyer, the Cardinal's secretary.

THE President conferred this morning with Judge Guillermo B. Guevara, presidential prober, who called at Malacañang to submit a 14-page report on his investigation of the Monetary Board of the Central Bank in connection with alleged dollar quota anomalies.

After going over the report with Judge Guevara, the President said he subscribed fully to the ethical principles that must be observed by bank officials, as enunciated by his investigator in the report.

The President also directed his special investigator to probe a newspaper report that a substantial dollar allocation had been granted by the Central Bank for a newspaper "through representations that the operator was a relative of President Magsaysay."

The President held another conference with Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff, and Maj. Gen. Wayne Smith, JUSMAG chief. No announcement was made after the conference held at the President's study from 10:15 to 10:35 a.m.

ABOUT 11:00 a.m., the President, accompanied by an aide, Capt Agerico Palaypay, visited the Philippine School of Arts and Trades. He viewed the different vocational departments, like the ceramic department, and expressed the hope that vocational training in the Philippines will be intensified. Only students doing extra work were in school during the President's visit, as the school has no classes on Saturdays.

Col. Osmundo Mondoñedo, ACCFA administrator, consulted the President on the projected eviction of aliens reportedly squatting on government lands at the Mt. Data National Park Reservation and the Central Cordillera Forest Reserve in Mt. Province.

Other callers today included Col. Harry A. Brenn, chief of the ICA, Rep. Rodolfo Ganzon of Iloilo; and a delegation from Palauig, Zambales, headed by Mayor Ricardo D. Asis.

THE President had as luncheon guest this noon Mr. and Mrs. Eduardo Garcia, his old friends from Bacolod City.

IN the afternoon, the President motored to the Rizal Memorial stadium to pitch the first ball between the Philippines and the Japanese teams to inaugurate the second Asian baseball championship.

He left at the middle of the game for an appointment in Malacañang, where he received a Nacionalista Party delegation from Iloilo headed by Sen. Jose C. Zulueta and Mayor-elect Rodolfo Ganzon of Iloilo City, presently a congressman. The delegation presented the President with a memorial. Among other things the Nacionalista Party delegation pledged anew to President Magsaysay their "sincere adherence to your policies which we believe to be fruitfully beneficial for the common people."

They also expressed their gratitude to the President "for the just, fair, and benign attitude you have demonstrated in connection with the last elections in the City of Iloilo."

The delegation also informed the President that as a result of the last elections in the city, out of the 12 positions disputed, one Liberal and one, Democrat have been elected councilors while the Nacionalistas were able to elect eight councilors together with the mayor and the vice-mayor.

In the course of their conference, Sen. Zulueta remarked that in the present struggle in Iloilo he was not as interested in the result of the contested governorship as in the maintenance of the clean elections which he said was the policy of the President.

The President thanked the delegation for their pledge of support to the Administration. Other members of the delegation were Board Member-elect Dr. G. C. Mosqueda; Vice-Mayor-elect Cesario Golez; Councilors-elect Nacianceno Rico, Jose A. Burgos, Dr. Romeo Y. Mabaquiao, Demetrio Vinson, Jr., and Reinerio J. Ticao; Councilor

Claro Gil; former Board Member Severino Ferraris; and Domingo E. Maling, Severino P. Ronquillo, Atty. Enrique C. Lopez, Teodorico Antiquiera, and Maximino Uyaco.

After the conference with the Iloilo delegation, the President motored to 2368 Vision Street, to visit the body of the late Fernando E. Garduque, an 85-year old veteran who died of old age at 7 a.m., today.

The President had been informed by Appointments Secretary Marcelino Calinawan that Garduque, who had been ill lately, had expressed the wish of seeing President Magsaysay before he died. As Garduque was not seriously ill, the President thought that he could visit him later. He was shocked to learn that Garduque died this morning.

The President gave the widow, Mrs. Concepcion Vda. de Garduque, financial help and condoled with her and the members of the family. Earlier, the President had sent a wreath. The President said that he had wanted to visit Garduque but had been prevented by the pressure of work.

The President said he was grateful when informed that in 1953 Garduque, who had been ailing, had asked to be placed on a stretcher to be able to cast his vote for President Magsaysay.

The President was accompanied to the Garduque residence by Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol and his aide, Capt. Agerico Palaypay. The President returned to Malacañang at about 6 p.m.

The President today approved a resolution of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes board of directors appointing Eugenio E. Santos as general manager of the PCS, to succeed Fabian R. Millar. The same resolution named Millar as a member of the Sweepstakes board of directors.

The President also confirmed a third item in the resolution appointing Getulio Ambrosio as assistant general manager.

Santos at present is a member of the Sweepstakes board and is a well known political writer. He belongs to the *Evening News* editorial staff. He was sent to Spain by the Sweepstakes board last year to study the Spanish lottery system, which has since been introduced locally with success.

Ambrosio is the present chief of the accounting division of the Sweepstakes office.

All the three appointments will be effective upon assumption of duty.

December 11.—AT a breakfast conference today, President Magsaysay approved the implementation of a plan to build low cost soil-cement block schoolhouses in the rural areas throughout the country.

The President gave his approval during breakfast with Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff, and Col. Antonio Chanco, chief of the AFP corps of engineers, who jointly recommended its approval in their capacity as chairman and project officer, respectively, of the President's Committee on Schoolhouse Program which will directly launch the implementation of the project.

Also present in the conference which lasted from 9 to 10 a.m., was Maj. Gen. Wayne Smith, JUSMAG chief.

Following his approval, the President directed CB Governor Miguel Cuaderno to make the initial release of funds necessary for the project.

During the conference, the Chief Executive also directed Vargas and Chanco to revise the original plans for the basic schoolhouse with a view to reducing its cost from P3,000 to P2,000 per schoolroom.

Col. Chanco informed the President that the projected soil-cement block schoolhouses, aside from being relatively of low cost, would be durable. Chanco expects that approximately 1,000 units will be finished in 1956.

THE President today pressed for an early termination of the screening of fake importers but warned that extreme caution be taken in using the term "fake importer" in order to safeguard the name and reputation of genuine importers.

The President told Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, CB Special Assistant Gregorio S. Licaros, and his special racket buster, Judge Guillermo B. Guevara, to hurry up their screening work, giving them up to the middle of January to finish their job.

MALACAÑANG announced today that the President asked Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno to continue to the office for at least another year. This announcement was made to spite rumors that Cuaderno would be retired upon reaching 65.

Press Secretary J. V. Cruz said that Cuaderno, Licaros, and Guevara were examining quotas allotted to both importers and producers totaling 5,300. Of this total, 1,700 are producers and 3,600 are importers.

Cruz said that the President had completed his study of the report of Judge Guillermo B. Guevara on the Monetary Board probe. The President reiterated that he had subscribed fully to the ethical principles that must be observed by bank officials, as enunciated by Guevara.

Press Secretary Cruz, added, the President would refer the Guevara report to Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason for further evaluation and recommendation, and gave the justice secretary two days to submit his report.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay also directed this day the PC chief, Brig. Gen. Manuel Cabal, to ferret out in his investigation of guerrilla backpay racketeers those who were using the President's guerrilla organization in Zambales as a bait for attracting victims. He also told Cabal to extend his investigation to violators of Republic Act No. 493.

The President said he had heard that some guerrilla racketeers were telling people that they had been instrumental in obtaining recognition and backpay for the Magsaysay guerrilla unit after liberation. These racketeers use his line to bolster their claim that they can obtain similar recognition for other units.

President Magsaysay said no middlemen or agents ever intervened in the recognition of his guerrilla force. The unit obtained recognition directly from U. S. authorities on the basis of its wartime record and services to the Allied cause.

Republic Act No. 493 prohibits the use or conferring of military or naval grades or titles by, or upon, persons not in the service of the Armed Forces. It also regulates the wearing, use, manufacture, and sale of insignias, decorations and medals, badges, patches, and identification cards prescribed for the Armed Forces.

Reports of violations of this Act have reached Malacañang and the President directed Cabal to take the necessary action and file cases in court when warranted. Incidentally, the President is conversant with this particular law, because he had filed it as H. B. No. 935 in 1950 when he was still a congressman from Zambales.

The President told Cabal to inform him of the progress of his investigation work on these cases as soon as possible.

THE President today released P4 millions to the NAMARCO to enable this agency to purchase commodities which have risen in price during the holiday season owing to speculation and hoarding.

The President took this action after conferring with NAMARCO General Manager Manuel J. Gonzalez, who brought to his attention the rising prices of some commodities in heavy demand during this period.

The Chief Executive told Gonzalez to submit to him immediately a list of items to be imported or purchased by the NAMARCO with the P4 million. Gonzalez said his list will contain items of food, clothing, construction materials, and medicines which are in heavy demand and whose prices have risen disproportionately owing to artificial manipulations. He added that upon the President's approval of the list, he will immediately apply for whatever exchange he will need for information.

The President expressed determination to protect consumers from high prices caused by hoarding and speculation. He told the NAMARCO chief not to delay in flooding the market with needed commodities which have been placed beyond the reach of average consumers owing to artificial manipulations.

December 12.—THIS morning, the President had breakfast with former Ambassador Joaquin M. Elizalde, who reported on the results of the International Sugar Conference in London, Great Britain, and the FAO meet in Rome, Italy.

Then the President sent a telegram to Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, congratulating him on the occasion of his 65th birthday.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay received callers at his study until 1:30 p.m. Among individual callers he received were Sen. Justiniano S. Montano, Gov. Patricio Fernandez of Palawan, Gov. Juan Pajo of Bohol, Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, Navy Commodore Jose M. Francisco, and Rep. Enrique Corpus of Zambales.

The President also received large delegations from the provinces which called at Malacañang to request financial assistance for various pressing project in their respective localities; such as, roads, irrigation systems, artesian wells, and schoolhouses.

Among the provincial delegations were those from Samar headed by Senator-elect Decoroso Rosales; from Tayug, Pangasinan, headed by Mayor-elect Andres Adsena; from Batangas accompanied by Rep. Apolinario Apacible; from Jaen, Nueva Ecija, headed by Mayor-elect Felix Velarde.

Thousands of stevedores and dockworkers of the Union Obreros Estivedores de Filipinas (UOEF) marched to Malacañang this noon to reiterate their petition that they be restored to their former jobs at the piers when the MRR takes over the operation of the arrastre service at the beginning of the year.

With Vicente Cabrera as their spokesman, the workers informed the President that they had been jobless since the Delgado Brothers suddenly threw them out of work in 1950 when it took over the arrastre service from the Manila Port Terminal Company.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning told a joint delegation of tenants of Housing Project 1 (Roxas district) and 2 Housing Project (Quirino district) that he was against the arbitrary hiking of prices of the government's houses and lots in Quezon City.

The President transmitted his decision on this matter to PHHC General Manager Vicente Orosa. He assured the home owners that they would be given justice. However, the President told them that they should pay the fees justly due to the PHHC for their homes and lots. He also told them that even those who are delinquent in the payment of their dues should be given a chance to purchase their homes and lots, provided the government is not prejudiced.

The delegation which saw the President consisted of some 200 persons, headed by Quezon City Mayor Norberto Amoranto and Melecio D. Velarde, president of the Homesite Residents Association, Inc. Velarde, who acted as spokesman of the delegation, said the increase in prices was due to improvements made in the homesites, like those in improving the streets.

The President said that it was the duty of the government to take care of such improvements. He added that such expenditures should be charged against the corporation and not against the tenants. However, in the case of

individual houses repaired by the corporation, the charges should be borne only by the owners of the houses repaired and should not be shared by the other house owners.

The President told Mayor Amoranto and Velarde to discuss the details of their petition with PHHC General Manager Orosa.

THE President also received a delegation of the Federation of Filipino Rice and Corn Millers, headed by Gov. Dominador Mangubat of Cavite, who is a director of the federation.

In reply to their petition, the President said that the ACCFA should not construct rice and corn mill in places where Filipinos were already operating their own mills, provided, however, that the farmers were not exploited by the mill owners. He also said that the FACOMA should continue constructing mills in places where no mills are available or where they were being operated by aliens. The President telephoned ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo, informing him of his decision on this matter. He said that he would like Filipino rice and corn mill operators to make good in their business and that he did not want the government to compete against them.

The President also agreed that the bill which had not been acted upon last year, to the effect that taxes on mills should be made dependent on their capacity, should be studied again for resubmission when Congress meets.

Among the members of the delegation of corn and rice millers were Patricio Pineda, vice-president; Francisco S. Castro, secretary; and Jose Topacio, Felixberto Bautista, Vicente Villanueva, Delfin de Leon, Dr. Eugenio Villanueva, Teodosio G. Ilem, and Mateo Embarkado.

Other callers received by the President were Speaker Protempore Daniel Z. Romualdez, Leyte Provincial Treasurer Antonio Zabala; Senator-elect Domocao Alonto, Lanao Gov. Salvador Lluch, Atty. Amilhamja Tahil, Rep. Jose Puey of Occidental Negros, Mayor Jose Legaspi of Makato, Capiz, Mayor-elect Macario B. Peña of Naic, Cavite, and Mayor-elect Luis Garcia of Sexmoan, Pampanga.

THE President in the evening said he would recommend to Congress an appropriation to foster historical research in the Philippines.

The President made this statement before the Philippine Historical Association after installing the officers of the association at the Malacañang social hall. The President was made honorary president of the association.

In his extemporaneous remarks in both English and Tagalog, the President lamented the inadequacy of historical records about the Philippines and Filipino people. He said that, as it is, Philippine history is fragmentary. He added, there was an urgent need to employ historical researchers in order to give complete account of the country's history.

One of the things which needed further study and research, the President said, was the history of each province in the Philippines. This theme had been touched upon earlier by Prof. Gabriel F. Fabella, president of the Philippine Historical Association. The President added that he would like more researchers done on the historical background of Philippine historical figures who had influenced the course of the history of the country.

To achieve this end, the President said, he would recommend to the next session of Congress the appropriation of sufficient funds for historical research. He said that the research work could be done at the University of the Philippines or at some other university in a position to conduct the research.

The President thanked the association for honoring him with the honorary presidency of the association, although, he said, he was unworthy of the honor.

Others who spoke were Digno Alba, chairman of the finance committee, who acted as master of ceremonies; Dr. Gregorio F. Zaide, vice-president, who welcomed the guests; Dr. Encarnacion Alzona, who spoke in Tagalog and

cited the achievements of the President; and Prof. Fabella, who talked on the need for more historical studies in the Philippines. The Constabulary band furnished the music.

President Magsaysay installed the officers of the association: namely, Gabriel F. Fabella, president; Gregorio F. Zaide, vice-president; Esteban A. de Ocampo, secretary-treasurer; Honesto A. Villanueva, auditor; Donata V. Taylo, archivist-librarian; Luis S. Fiel, PRO; and Nicolas Zafra, Encarnacion Alzona, Teodoro A. Agoncillo, Celedonio A. Ancheta, and Leopoldo R. Serrano, governors.

Seated at the platform with the President were Mrs. Luz Banzon Magsaysay, Secretary of Education and Mrs. Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., and Professors Zaide, Fabella, and Alzona.

December 13.—FOR the second time this year, the President received Malacañang newsmen at a breakfast conference this morning. Still in good humor, he exchanged repartees with the newshawks who sought to draw him to commit himself on the current investigation of the Monetary Board of the Central Bank.

The President told the press conference that he had issued instructions to Central Bank authorities not to honor any representations made by unscrupulous individuals who may use his name. He said he had reiterated to Gregorio S. Licaros, special assistant to the CB Governor, that all requests bearing his signature are “fraudulent and falsified.”

“I will never make any request with the Central Bank,” the President said.

THE President fired this day Conrado B. Leonardo, an employee of the President’s Complaint and Action Committee, and ordered a speedy investigation and prosecution of three criminal charges of estafa filed against Leonardo.

Leonardo has been reported illegally using the President’s name in mulcting some unemployed persons who had approached him for work.

It was gathered from the records of the Manila City Fiscal’s office that Leonardo, together with another lawyer by the name of Catolico, allegedly collected money ranging from P100 to P250 from Rufino de Dios, Inocencio Tanda, Marcos Agbulog, Jose Veloria, and Celestino Jaramilla, under false pretenses and unfulfilled promises that these persons will be employed in Guam.

Malacañang repeated its warning to the public not to deal with anybody using the name of the President in any private transaction, and to report such persons immediately to Malacañang.

AFTER the breakfast conference with newsmen, the President followed another heavy schedule of callers.

A. Z. Baker, Rotary International president, paid a courtesy call on the President, together with his wife and K. K. Kruger, editor of the *Rotarian*. They were accompanied by Sen. Gil J. Puyat, RFC Chairman and Mrs. Eduardo Z. Romualdez, Dean Conrado Benitez, and Juan B. Carlos.

Baker expressed gratitude to the President for the hospitality extended to them by the Filipino people. He said they “feel perfectly at home here. He also informed the President that “the American people are proud of our relations with the Philippines.”

Following the courtesy call of the Rotary International president, the President received Reps. Augusto Francisco and Angel Castaño of Manila. Rep. Francisco submitted to the President a plan to ease the heavy traffic on Calle Herran, Paco. The President said that he would study the plan.

Rep. Castaño accompanied a group of tenants from the Samia estate in Tondo who complained that they were being charged exorbitant rental rate. The President told the Manila solon to study a way by which to solve the situation and submit the plan to him.

A large delegation of barrio farmers from Candaba, Pampanga, complained to the President that they could not market their products because there was no road from their village to the town plaza. They also asked for an irrigation system. The President gave a written directive to file Department of Public Works and Communications to construct a road and an irrigation system for the barrio farmers.

Reps. Manuel Enverga and Leon Guinto, Jr., of Quezon also saw the President and told him about the progress of the rural improvement program in their province. With the Quezon solons were Mayor Ceferino Osuna of Lopez, Benjamin Campomanes, and Director Francisco Bigornia of the Quezon Memorial Hospital.

Other early callers of the President included NEC Chairman Alfredo Montelibano; Reps. Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo, Justino Nuyda of Albay, Numeriano Babao of Batangas, Serafin Salvador of Rizal, Jose Corpuz of Nueva Ecija, and Ramon Durano of Cebu; Gov. Arsenio Lugay of Tarlac; Atty. Juan C. Orendain and John P. Roderick of the Associated Press; Bernard Anderson of the Philippine Airlines; and Donald Royce of the William R. Staats and Co., investment bankers of Los Angeles, California, U. S. A.

President Magsaysay this morning also received a large delegation of fishermen from Malabon, Caloocan, and Navotas, Rizal, and from Tondo, Manila, which presented him with a petition seeking the opening of Dagatgatan lake in Montalban to fishermen.

With Roger Moskaira acting as spokesman, the delegation asked that the contract of lease awarded by the government to a private person for the exclusive use of the lake be rescinded so that the body of water would be open as fishing ground to the general public.

Calling up by phone the Bureau of Fisheries and the Bureau of Lands, the President learned that the lake in question had been leased to a private person 28 years ago for a period of 25 years. He also learned that the lease had been renewed for another 25 years on its expiration about two years ago. He instructed the government officials concerned to study the terms and conditions of the renewed lease agreement with a view to finding ways of rescinding it so that the lake could be opened to some 2,000 fishermen.

A delegation from the City Hall Press Club called to pay its respects. Headed by Teodoro Owen of the *Bulletin*, club president, the delegation included Pete S. de Jesus of the *Evening News*, Primitivo Mijares of the *Chronicle*, Hermogenes Rotea of the *Daily Record*, Ladislao Bella Subang of the *Mabuhay*, and Gil Corpus Darang, City Hall PRO.

Others who called to pay their respects were officers of the Pasay City Lions Club headed by its president, Pete Vasquez; Jeter Williamson, chief of police of Greensborough City, U. S. A., who was accompanied by Lt. Col. Ricardo Nieva, chief of police of Pasay City; and Mayor Isidoro Querubin of Caoayan, Ilocos Sur, who requested aid for the reopening of Pandan Port, which has been closed by recent typhoons.

The Chief Executive received visitors at his study until 1:30 p.m. Most of his callers were, as usual, delegations from the provinces which sought financial assistance for pressing projects in their respective localities; such as roads, irrigation systems, school houses, health centers, artesian wells, and typhoon aid.

Among such delegations were those from Laguna which included Gov. Dominador Chipeco, Reps. Wenceslao Lagumbay and Jacobo Gonzales, and Mayor Mauro H. Alimagno of Cabuyao and Vice-Mayor Tarciano Rizal of Calamba; from the Bicol region which included Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, Rep. Pio Duran of Albay, Governor-elect Nicanor Seva of Albay and Juan Frivaldo of Sorsogon; from Caloocan, Rizal, headed by Mayor Macario Asistio; from Pasig, Rizal, headed by Emiliano Carruncho; from Zambales headed by Governor-elect Manuel Barretto; from Guagua, Pampanga, headed by Mayor Isidoro P. Ocampo and from Sulat, Samar, headed by Councilor Placida Olegion.

The last delegation received by the President was composed of Bulacan school officials who sought assistance on the early implementation of Republic Act No. 842, providing for salary adjustments of secondary school teachers.

With the Bulacan delegation were Senator-elect Francisco Rodrigo, Rep. Rogaciano Mercado, Gov. Alejo Santos, Mayor-elect Magno Gatchalian of Paombong, and Roman L. Santos, division superintendent of schools.

This afternoon, President Magsaysay swore in Colonels Patricio Borromeo and Leoncio S. Tan as *ad interim* brigadier generals, at a simple ceremony at the Malacañang reception hall.

The ceremony was attended by Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug, Senator-elect Francisco Rodrigo, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Brig. Gen. Manuel Cabal, Navy Commodore Jose M. Francisco, Brig. Generals Alfredo M. Santos and Alfonso Arellano, Air Force Brig. Gen. Pelagio Cruz, and ranking officers of the Armed Forces.

The President assisted Mrs. Borromeo and Mrs. Tan in pinning their insignias on the new generals, after which he congratulated them.

In the presence of all the Armed Forces brass, the President said that the Army should further intensify its intelligence work in view of signs of Huk activities directed at subversion. The President was assured that the Armed Forces was always on the alert and would intensify its intelligence work.

Turning to General Cabal, the President reiterated his directive of extending his investigation of the guerrilla backpay racketeers to the investigation of violators of Republic Act No. 493. The President said that those who unlawfully arrogate upon themselves Armed Forces ranks and later on confer Army ranks to others should be investigated and charges should be filed against them.

Cabal said that his men are at work on several cases and would report to the President on the program of his work.

President Magsaysay this afternoon turned down the resignations of Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, PNB President Arsenio J. Jison, and RFC Chairman Eduardo Z. Romualdez from their respective positions and also as members ex officio of the Monetary Board of the Central Bank.

The Guevara report on his investigation of the Monetary Board did not in any way implicate these officials.

In their letters of resignation sent to the President on December 18, the three officials submitted actually two resignations; namely, that from their original positions and that from their being members ex officio of the Monetary Board by virtue of the original positions which they held.

The letter of Judge Guillermo B. Guevara to the President requesting that he (Guevara) suspend his investigation work was referred by the President to Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason for comment and recommendation.

December 14.—CITY officials headed by Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson had breakfast with the President at Malacañang this morning. They discussed with the President proposed improvements for Manila.

Mayor Lacson was accompanied by Rep. Joaquin Roces, Vice-Mayor-elect Jesus Marcos Roces, and City Engineer Alejo Aquino.

The President told the city officials to draft for his study a bill giving Manila a share in the income of the Bureau of Customs. He also assured the city officials that he would submit to the Cabinet their request for a portion of land in Malate belonging to the National Government for market and school sites.

In response to the request that the law giving National Sewerage and Waterworks Authority the control of canals and storm drains, including those of Manila, be repealed or amended, the President instructed Susano Negado, NSWA general manager, to withhold implementation of that part of the law which gives the NSWA control over the sewage system in Manila.

The President also instructed Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona to release P50,000 for the constructional the V. Mapa Street extension, as requested by the city officials.

Except for the Cabinet meeting over which he presided, the President cancelled all his other appointments this day owing to an upset stomach.

BEFORE meeting the Cabinet, the President directed Customs Commissioner Manuel P. Manahan not to unload the Virginia leaf tobacco now in the Manila harbor unless Malacañang issued a license for it.

The President made it clear that no license would be issued unless local tobacco manufacturers signed a performance bond binding them to buy all the 33 million pounds of tobacco to be produced locally next year.

DURING the regular meeting of the Cabinet this day, President Magsaysay lifted the suspension of barter trade deals under the No-Dollar Import Law, but specified that only goods beneficial to the national economy should be allowed to be imported in such transactions.

The Cabinet meeting went over some barter applications pending with the Department of Commerce and Industry, which administers the No-Dollar Import Law, and confirmed those calling for the importation of goods helpful to the economy. Most of the transactions involved the importation of construction materials such as GI sheets, roofing materials, and other goods in short supply but in heavy demand in the country.

Among the licenses confirmed by the Cabinet was that issued to the Victorias Milling Co. to ship sugar to the Netherlands for certain commodities. This application previously had been opposed by two local radio manufacturing companies, the Radio Electronics Headquarters Company (REHCO), and the Radiowealth Co., on the ground that the importation of finished radios which were among the goods sought to be imported by the milling company would discourage the manufacture and assembly of local radios. The Cabinet amended the license to require the importation of spare parts rather than finished radios.

The Cabinet meeting also:

1. Approved Philippine participation in the ECAFE meetings in Bangalore, India, in January and February. The Philippine group will be headed by the undersecretary of commerce and industry and the members will be composed of a representative each from the National Economic Council, the central Bank, the Department of Foreign Affairs, and the director of census and statistics.
2. Approved a request of the Department of Public Works and Communications that some public works projects be undertaken by the Administration. The Cabinet laid the condition, however, that all supplies, materials, and equipment needed for these projects be purchased through public bidding.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay, on recommendation of Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, today extended *anad interim* appointment to Presiding Justice Pastor M. Endencia of the Court of Appeals as associate justice of the Supreme Court.

Endencia succeeds Justice Guillermo Pablo, retired.

Endencia was the first secretary of education under President Magsaysay's administration. After serving in the Cabinet for some months, he was returned to the Court of Appeals, from which he had been pulled, as presiding justice.

MALACAÑANG this day released Proclamation No. 216, signed by President Magsaysay making public the approval by the Philippine Government of the revised agreement of the 1946 trade agreement between the Philippines and the United States. The proclamation was signed by President Magsaysay on November 28, 1955, but a misunderstanding as to which agency should release it, had held up its publication.

Malacañang also announced in the evening that President Magsaysay was still studying the proffered resignations of the regular members of the Monetary Board.

Earlier, the President told Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason in a brief conference to study carefully the charges preferred against the presidential investigator, Judge Guillermo B. Guevara. The President said among the things to be looked into was whether Guevara himself had directed or tolerated the resale by his tenants of the garlic which he had ordered.

The President also informed Tuason that he had asked Pangasinan Gov. Conrado Estrella to undertake a personal inspection of Guevara's farm in Pangasinan to determine how much land had been planted to garlic. Estrella left this morning for Pangasinan accompanied by representatives of the PCAC and the ACCFA.

December 15.—OWING to an upset stomach and partly because of uncertain weather conditions, President Magsaysay cancelled his scheduled trip to Iligan City, where he was going to inaugurate the National Shipyards and Steel Corporation (NASSCO) steel mill.

AFTER having breakfast with Mrs. Magsaysay, the President received in his bedroom CB Governor Miguel Cuaderno with whom he discussed aspects of the termination of the 17 per cent Exchange Tax Law and the imposition of 17 per cent tax on imports, to prevent an estimated loss of some P30,000,000 to P40,000,000 government revenue as a result of the automatic termination of the exchange tax after December 31, 1955.

The President directed Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez and Governor Cuaderno to study how the termination of the 17 per cent exchange tax and the imposition of the new 17 per cent import tax beginning January 1, 1956, may be exploited in order to prevent the payment of lawful taxes to the government. The President also requested the two top finance officers of the government to study how this possible revenue loss could be remedied and to submit their recommendations within one week.

The present rules and regulations of the Central Bank in the implementation of the 17 per cent exchange tax provide that the importer must pay the 17 per cent exchange tax at the time that he liquidates his draft in his bank. The importer, however, may defer payment of his tax by not liquidating his draft but by merely requesting release of documents from his bank from a "trust receipt" ranging from 60 to 120 days.

Malacañang pointed out that because of this situation, there was a big chance that the Philippine Government might lose an estimated P30 million to P40 million in revenue from this tax alone because importers have been, and are, getting releases of their importations on "trust receipts" payable during January or after, next year. As the 17 per cent Exchange Tax Law automatically ceases after December 31, 1955, when these "trust receipts" become due and payable in January, there will be no law which will give the government authority to enforce payment or collection of the tax.

Beginning January 1, 1956, the 17 per cent tax on imports, which is proposed to replace the 17 per cent exchange tax, will be in effect. But this tax will only be applicable on actual importations after January 1 and will not apply to any other importations made prior to that date.

Malacañang again explained that any importer who had brought into the Philippines any merchandise in which the 17 per cent Exchange Tax Law applied, would not have to pay any exchange tax if he cleared his documents on "trust receipts". At the same time the importer would also not have to pay the 17 per cent import tax, if his importation arrived before January 1. In this way, Malacañang explained, the government would face a possible less of revenue.

LATER in the morning, after working on state papers, the President motored to the V. Luna General Hospital for a medical check-up. He was accompanied by an aide, Capt. Agerico Palaypay. He left the V. Luna hospital shortly before noon and motored to Fort Wm. McKinley, where he inspected the military installations.

The President returned to Malacañang in the evening. Upon arrival at the Palace, he resumed working on pending state papers.

December 16.—STILL recuperating from an upset stomach, the President cancelled scheduled appointments with visitors this day.

Instead of receiving callers, the President motored to the Philippine School of Arts and Trades on San Marcelino Street, Ermita.

Surprised by the unexpected visit of the President, PSAT Superintendent Jose S. Roldan hurriedly took the Chief Executive on a tour of the school and had all the faculty members summoned to greet the President.

The President told faculty members and students of the Philippine School of Arts and Trades that he would direct education authorities to introduce modern equipment and machinery to improve instruction standards of this leading government vocational school.

The President visited the PSAT to view the Christmas season exhibit of the school. He also directed Jose S. Roldan, superintendent of the PSAT, to contact Commodore Jose M. Francisco of the Navy and NASSCO General Manager Bernardo Abrera for a conference at Malacañang with a view to giving the PSAT students on-the-job training at the NASSCO docks and PN boats.

The President was impressed by the ability of the students in running the huge machines at their shops but expressed the opinion that compared to students of other nations, the PSAT students were behind in knowledge of modern equipment and machines.

Arriving unexpectedly at the PSAT building at about 9:30 a.m., the President proceeded to the shops of the students where he looked over the machines being used, which included a huge rotating flywheel and generator.

The Chief Executive also assured the teachers and students that he would work for the passage of the apprenticeship bill which would benefit the students. He was cheered when he announced the measures that the Administration will take in improving the PSAT.

He added that arrangements would be made so that the PSAT students could visit the shops and motor pools of the Armed Forces to acquaint themselves with modern motors and engines. "Let us teach our students things that are up to date," he said.

After inspecting the exhibit for about 30 minutes, the President encouraged the faculty members to teach the students to work in things that "can be put on the market" like woven goods from native materials. He was shown a locally-made electric saw and water pump.

The President was taken around the PSAT shops and buildings by Gr. Pedro Guiang, Dr. Gilbert Perez, Superintendent Roldan, and faculty members, Jose R. Vergara, Crispulo Toledo, and others. The American ICA advisers detailed at the PSAT were also present.

AFTER leaving the PSAT premises, the President motored towards the southern end of the City. Not long afterwards, he ordered his driver to proceed to the Nichols Air Base.

The President intended to go to Bayambang, Pangasinan, to visit the 21-hectare farm of the Mabuhay Development Company headed by his racket buster, Judge Guillermo B. Guevara. He had already boarded his plane *Pagasa* when he finally decided to return to Malacañang; so he alighted from the plane and ordered his driver to return to the Palace.

THE President, upon arrival in Malacañang, told Pangasinan Gov. Conrado Estrella by long distance telephone to get a land surveyor and proceed immediately to the Guevara farm in Bayambang, Pangasinan, and measure the area already planted to garlic.

The President said that he wanted the Estrella committee to determine the exact area planted and also the remaining garlic stock to be planted. He told Estrella to complete his report on the case with the aid of one of the committee members, Porfirio V. Sison. The President said that, if the report could be ready this afternoon, he would send a Cessna plane to pick up the committee members so that they could personally submit their report.

IN the afternoon, after reading reports that a bus was ambushed in Nueva Ecija, the President took off on an Air Force helicopter from Malacañang Park, about 2:20 p.m., and flew to Carranglan, Nueva Ecija, to look personally into the peace and order situation in that area. He was accompanied by his aide, Maj. Pat Garcia, and Guillermo V. Sison, assistant press secretary.

The helicopter was piloted by Col. Jonas Victoria, with Capt. Arnulfo Asedemo as co-pilot. The helicopter arrived at Carranglan at 3:45 p.m.

Upon alighting from the helicopter which landed at the school grounds of the Carranglan Elementary School and after interviewing municipal officials and townspeople, the President ordered two platoons of PN marines consisting of some 100 men to proceed immediately to Carranglan and patrol the highways on foot continuously night and day.

The President flew to Carranglan after having received reports that some eight passengers were killed when a bus was ambushed on the Santa Fe road some kilometers away from the town proper. It was not fully ascertained whether or not the ambushers were Huks or armed bandits. However, the President immediately received requests from the townspeople of Carranglan for government protection against armed men molesting them.

Upon being informed that the wounded victims of the ambush had already been taken to a hospital in Cabanatuan City, the President gave the following orders to the Armed Forces:

- (1) All the necessary facilities for the dead should be extended;
- (2) Financial assistance should be given to the families of the victims;
- (3) Ambulance should be provided for transporting the bodies of the dead to their home towns; and
- (4) The wounded should be sent immediately to the V. Luna General Hospital for treatment

The President learned from the town officials that, in view of the about-to-be-harvested crops of the town, armed bandits have been visiting the area to forage. A person gave the information that only the other day, four persons whom he thought were Huks met him and asked for cigarettes.

The President was informed that there were only four policemen in the town who were not well equipped and only five soldiers at the 1st BCT were stationed there. This force was not enough to repel any attack, the President was told.

The President said he would send two platoons of PN marines to protect them. He also said that he was going to send arms for volunteers who would give their free services to protect the town.

One of the town officials, pointing to the dilapidated schoolhouse, asked the President for financial aid to rebuild the building. The President promised the release of P5,000 for the purpose. He added that aside from the money he would send, the townspeople should also contribute their labor. He also promised to give one pre-fabricated schoolhouse for the barrio of General Luna.

The townspeople thanked the President for his unexpected visit. They said that it was the first time that the President of the Philippines had ever visited that faraway place.

The President, before flying to Carranglan, took steps to check the spread of violence and lawlessness in the country as he ordered the immediate redeployment of seasoned combat officers of the Army to critical areas in the field.

Immediately after giving the order, the President boarded a PAF helicopter and flew to Carranglan, near the foothills of Caraballo mountains, where a passenger bus had been fired upon by unidentified armed men early in the morning, resulting in the death of several persons and the wounding of many others.

In a memorandum addressed to Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug, the President expressed the belief that the situation necessitated the presense of seasoned combat officers in critical areas. He instructed Secretary Cabahug to effect immediately the redeployment of ranking Army officers who had proven their mettle in the field when he was secretary of national defense.

Among the officers mentioned by the President in his memorandum were Colonels Cipriano de Castro, Oscar Rialp, Ernesto Mata, Jacinto Leoncio, Albert Friedlander, and Mamerto Bautista. He said that these and other officers like them should be redeployed” for effective maintenance of peace and order along procedures and policies that had been employed in their respective commands during their time.”

The Chief Executive first learned of the ambush of the passenger bus at Carranglan, from a report received at Malacañang about 8 a.m. from the field.

According to the report, the bus had been fired upon by unidentified armed men at 3 a.m., resulting in the immediate death of six passengers and wounding of 14 others. Of the 14, three were dying; all the casualties had been taken to the provincial hospital. The report also stated that a detachment of the 1st BCT led by Lt. Filemon Valencerina was giving chase to the ambushers.

Expressing his desire to visit the scene of the ambush, the President, after eating his lunch, ordered a helicopter from the Air Force and had it brought to Malacañang Park.

The President took off from Carranglan on his return trip at 4:15 p.m. and landed at the Nichols Air Base at 5:45 p.m.

December 17.—EARLY this morning, before motoring to Novaliches to witness the Army maneuvers, President Magsaysay directed Col. Luis Martinez, director of the V. Luna General Hospital, to send immediately three medical specialists to Cabanatuan City to treat the wounded in yesterday’s ambush.

Dispatched by plane to Cabanatuan were top V. Luna specialists: Lt. Col. Moises Santos, chest surgeon; Lt. Col. Vicente Arnaldo, orthopedic surgeon; and Major Garsico, neuro-surgeon.

After issuing his directives to the Armed Forces Friday evening for burial facilities for the dead, medical attention to the wounded, and financial aid to the families of the ambush victims, the President learned this morning that some of the wounded who were being treated at the Nueva Ecija Provincial Hospital were in such condition that they could not be moved. The President immediately directed Col. Martinez to send specialists to treat the victims.

The Chief Executive also directed the provincial hospital at Cabanatuan to extend all medical aid and assistance to the patients.

President Magsaysay this morning motored to Novaliches, Rizal, to witness a realistic war show put on by 20-year old trainees on a regimental scale as part of their graduation exercises after undergoing a five-month military training under the Armed Forces.

Led by reserve officers who had been called to active duty to train with them and by some officers and non-commissioned officers of the regular force, the trainees impressed the President with their splendid performance under simulated battle conditions.

Also participating in the exercises were a tank company made up of regular officers and enlisted men, troops from the 9th Infantry Regiment and the 11th Field Artillery Battalion, and a composite squadron from the Air Force made up of six T-33 jet planes, 16 F-51 fighter-bombers, and a number of L-5's and helicopters.

Fetches from Malacañang by Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Alfonso Arellano, PATC commander; and Brig. Gen. Alfredo Santos, 2nd MA commander, the President left for the war games about 9 a.m.

Arriving in Novaliches 45 minutes later, he was greeted Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug, Brigadier Generals Manuel Cabal of the PC, Pelagio Cruz of the Air Force, and other ranking AFP officers. Also there were Sen. Macario Peralta, Jr., Govs. Alejo Santos of Bulacan and Wenceslao Pascual of Rizal, Gen. Guillermo Francisco, and foreign military attaches from the various embassies and legations in Manila who had been invited to watch the maneuvers.

The realistic war games started at 10:20 a.m. with a barrage of artillery fire provided by 18 105-mm guns located at the rear of the observation post. Some two kilometers to the front of the observation post, observers could see smoke and dust suddenly rising in the air as the shells landed right where the "enemy" had entrenched themselves in preparation for an attack at the La Mesa Dam and the Novaliches watershed, thus threatening the city's water supply.

Twenty minutes later, the artillery barrage lifted and formations of P-51 fighter-bombers took turns diving over the target area, strafing and bombing "enemy" positions. Another formation of T-33 jet planes hovered over the diving planes to provide cover protection for the bombers.

Observers were impressed with the performance of some of the P-51's equipped with rockets which had to pull up from dives in a steep fast climb to avoid the shrapnels of the powerful rockets they had just dropped.

While the planes were busy with their strafing and bombing runs, camouflaged tanks, heretofore undetected by the observers from their vantage point on top of a small hill, began moving to the forward area in preparation for the infantry attack. Jump-off time for the foot soldiers was scheduled at 10:50 a.m.

Then the whole target area seemed to explode all over as shells from 81-mm mortars, recoilless rifles, and rocket launchers on the ground pulverized the "enemy" position with interdiction fire. The attack lasted until noon. No small arms were fired.

Before leaving the premises, the President had a brief conference with Secretary Cabahug; Gens. Vargas, Santos, Cabal; and other ranking officers. He congratulated them for the successful exercises. He also reiterated his desire to have a more effective deployment of troops in the field to check the possible resurgence of violence and lawlessness in the country.

Earlier this morning, the President held a conference at Malacañang with NEC Chairman Alfredo Montelibano and Customs Commissioner Manuel Manahan on routine matters pertaining to their offices. He left for Novaliches about 9 a.m. and returned to Malacañang at 12:45 p.m.

IN the afternoon the President returned to Nueva Ecija to visit those who had been wounded in the ambush in Carranglan. He went to Cabanatuan City.

The President flew on a Cessna which put down at 2:25 p.m. at Bangad, headquarters of the 12th BCT, from where he motored to Cabanatuan. He proceeded directly to the Nueva Ecija Provincial Hospital to visit the wounded. At

the hospital he was met by Lt. Col. Geronimo Mallilin, provincial commander of Nueva Ecija, Cabanatuan Mayor Teodoro Santiago, and physicians of the hospital.

The President gave financial assistance to the six remaining wounded and at the same time directed the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to send P1,000 for the subsistence and hospitalization of the patients.

The President was informed that the three Army surgeons who had been sent from the V. Luna Hospital had already returned to the V. Luna earlier this noon and had taken along with them two patients for further treatment.

The President then flew to San Fernando, Pampanga, arriving there at 5 pm., and conferred with Col. Eugenio Acab, chief of staff of the 1st MA, who briefed the President on the implementation of his orders the previous day Acab told the President that a company of rangers from the 1st MA had already arrived in Carranglan to do foot patrol work continuously night and day.

The first plan was to send PN marines to Carranglan but it was later thought more convenient to send rangers stationed at 1st MA. The President was also informed that the one battalion removed from Nueva Ecija had been re-assigned to the province and was specifically deployed at the Carraballo Mountains along the Pangasinan-Nueva Ecija boundary. The President was pleased with the report on the implementation of his orders.

He flew back to Nichols Air Base, arriving at 6 p.m. He was accompanied only by a presidential aide, Major Pat Garcia.

December 18.—THIS morning, the President handed for disposition the Estrella report to Secretary of Justice Pedro Tuason, with whom he conferred at Malacañang.

Later, the President received U. S. Ambassador Homer Ferguson, who made a few minutes' call. Another caller was GAB Commissioner Manuel Nieto, Jr., who paid his respects following his arrival from a private two-week trip to Japan.

Then the President retired to his bedroom and worked on piles of state papers.

AT noon, the President gave luncheon in honor of the delegates of the Magsaysay-for-President Movement who are at present holding a convention.

President Magsaysay this noon told the MPM delegates to "back me up to the hilt in my fight for the uplift of the common man and for social justice for our people," in an extemporaneous speech he delivered after the luncheon given at Malacañang honoring the MPM delegates who are presently holding a national convention in Manila.

The President pointed out that the MPM should be conscious of the needs of the people and must see to it that the government extend them help regardless of their political affiliation.

Recalling the result of the last elections, the Chief Executive said it was a barometer which indicated that this Administration was on the right track in giving the people their needs.

"It also indicated," the President added, "that greater responsibilities lie ahead."

The Chief Executive urged the delegates to be loyal to the Nacionalista Party. He said that the NP was the political organization that was responsible for bringing about the new Administration. He said that the Nacionalista Party and the MPM should work hand in hand for the welfare of the country.

He reiterated that political intrigues and jealousies should never be allowed to interfere with the harmony which is presently prevailing between the NP and the MPM.

The delegation was headed by Sec. Eleuterio Adevos, MPM national coordinator. The luncheon lasted from 1 to 2 p.m.

December 19.—KEPT busy by outside engagements, the President did not receive callers in Malacañang this morning.

At 8:30 a.m., the President motored to Fort Wm. McKinley, where he addressed the graduating trainees of the 9th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Division, PA.

Accompanied by Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff and Mayor-elect Benigno Aquino, Jr., of Concepcion, Tarlac, the President arrived at Fort McKinley at 8:45 a.m. and was met by a guard of honor. Fifteen minutes later, he was given a 21-gun salute. He inspected the troops in a command staff car with Gen. Vargas.

President Magsaysay exhorted the graduating trainees of the 9th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Division, PA, to apply the lessons they learned while training "to the war we are fighting on our second front, the war we fight daily and hourly in every corner of our land, the war against poverty and ignorance."

The President said: "I call upon you to share the experience you have gained from these months of hard but rewarding work with your fellow countrymen. Show your neighbors that honest toil and a strong will can liberate them from the captivity of ignorance and poverty." (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 6107-6108, for the full text of the President's speech.)

The Chief Executive was the guest of honor at the graduation of the trainees of the 9th Infantry regiment, 3rd Division, PA, at Fort Wm. McKinley. The graduating trainees, who were from Manila, Quezon City, Batangas, Cavite, Rizal, and Laguna, formed a part of the spearhead of the citizens army under the reserve force of the Armed Forces.

The President also presented the division colors to Brig. Gen. Alfonso Arellano, 3rd Division commanding general. The division colors were first handed by Gen. Vargas to the President. Col. Tirso Fajardo, vice-commander of the 3rd Division, received the colors from Gen. Arellano.

Col. Fajardo was the commanding officer of the troops on parade composed of the 9th Inf. Regt. under Col. Antonio de Veyra, the 11th Field Artillery Battalion and the newly-formed 8th Inf. Regt. under Col. Oscar Rialp.

Gen. Arellano, who introduced the President, reported that the mission of training a citizens army entrusted to the Armed Forces was being carried out faithfully. He said that by the end of the fiscal year the full force of the 3rd Division would have been completely trained.

Present at the parade and review marking the graduation of the trainees were high ranking officials and Army officers of the Philippines and the United States Government, including U. S. Secretary of the Army Wilbur Brucker and Hugh Milton II, assistant U. S. secretary of the Army.

THE President today assured U. S. Secretary of the Army Wilbur M. Brucker that all assistance extended by the U. S. Government to the Philippines "has been used to strengthen the free world and the cause of democracy."

The President made these remarks at the end of a luncheon offered by him and Mrs. Magsaysay for Secretary and Mrs. Brucker and members of their party.

The President told the visiting U. S. official that "we in the Philippines have more than done our share in the battle against the enemies of freedom. We have beaten back communism in this country, and all that is left now is a little mopping up to complete the job."

The President pointed out that the presence of Brucker and his party in Manila was an indication of the global extent of the responsibilities of American officials involved in the fight against communism. This is because Washington is regarded by all as “the capital of the free world,” he said. The President expressed the hope that Brucker’s visit would result in closer cooperation between the two countries in promoting their mutual interests.

President Magsaysay closed his remarks by toasting the health of U. S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Responding, Secretary Brucker called President Magsaysay “one of the truly great leaders of the free world because of the decisive way in which he has won his battle against the enemies of freedom”.

Pointing out that some others had succeeded in “tilting the balance a little here and a little there,” Brucker said in contrast with this was the “decisive way” in which the President has advanced democracy and conquered the communists in this country.

The visiting U. S. official foresaw many more years of close and mutually beneficial association between the Philippines and the United States. “God bless your country and mine, sir,” he said, directly addressing President Magsaysay, “and God bless the noble cause in which we are engaged.”

U. S. Ambassador Homer Ferguson replied to President Magsaysay’s toast for U. S. President Eisenhower by toasting the health of the Philippine Chief Executive.

IN the afternoon, the President received a Tarlac delegation which pledged to him its loyalty and support to the Administration policies.

The delegation was composed of Mayor-elect Benigno Aquino, Jr., of Concepcion; Mayors Eufonio P. Sutaran of Gerona Eliodoro Castro of Paniqui, Esteban Mangubat of Ramos, and Rosendo Tomas of Mayantoc; and Dr. Amado Dizon, Manuel Solano, Cayetano Tiongson, and Cipriano Caspe.

After meeting with the Tarlac delegation, the President held a press conference with Malacañang reporters. Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno, who took up matters pertaining to his department, was also present.

The President also received a delegation from Bulacan headed by Gov. Alejo Santos and Rep. Rogaciano Mercado. With the delegation were Mayor and Mrs. Felix Reyes of Malolos, Bulacan.

AT 7:55 p.m., the President and Mrs. Magsaysay, accompanied by Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo, his aide, motored to the Manila Overseas Press Club, where he was guest speaker at the MOPC “President’s night.”

December 20.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay held a breakfast conference today with Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., during which they explored the Administration’s legislative program for next year.

The President and the Speaker reviewed some pending bills and earmarked those to be given top priority during the regular congressional session opening in January. Among the measures tapped for priority consideration were the foreign investments bill and the bill to increase registration fees for high-priced cars as well as new legislation to increase the Court of Appeals by one or two divisions.

During the conference, Laurel pledged full support of the President’s legislative program.

Later, the President reiterated to Rep. Godofredo Ramos of Capiz, House ways and means committee chairman, over the telephone, that he was opposed to new or increased taxes which would have to be borne by the people in general, especially the masses.

The President added, however, that he was not opposed to tapping sources of revenue which would not increase the burden on the average taxpayer. The President cited that at the same press conference where he had expressed his

general stand against more taxes, he had also endorsed pending legislation to raise the registration fees on high-priced cars.

The President also told Ramos that he planned to call a meeting of executive department and congressional fiscal and tax experts after Christmas to discuss the Administration's tax program for the coming session of Congress.

AFTER breakfast, the President proceeded to his study, where he received numerous delegations, most of which came from the provinces to request financial assistance for roads, school buildings, artesian wells, irrigation systems, waterworks, hospitals, and other projects in their respective communities.

Five Manila councilors called to pay their respects. During their call, they took up with the President plans for improvement of the city like the expansion of the Central Market. The councilors were Eriberto Remigio, Hermenigildo Gonzaga, Apolonio Gener, Eduardo Quintos, and Fidel Santiago. The President pledged the National Government's support to all measures beneficial to the city population.

Several provincial chapters of the MPM called to say goodbye prior to their return to their respective localities after attending their national convention in Manila. The MPM groups were those from Mindanao accompanied by Sen. Tomas Cabili, from the Bicol regions accompanied by Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, and from Isabela headed by Leandro Alvarez.

A large delegation of farmers from Calatagan, Batangas, accompanied by Rep. Apolinario Apacible and Mayor Olimpio Sayo sought the expropriation of a large landed estate to avoid unrest among its tenants due allegedly to unfair treatment by their landlord.

Another delegation from the Parent-Teachers' Association of Pasay City requested P500,000 for the construction of a new high-school building. The group was headed by Federico Romero, association president.

The Chief Executive received no less than 800 persons this morning. He received callers at his study continuously from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

A group of Batangas mayors requested aid for their respective localities. Headed by Pedro Pasia of Cuenca, president of the Batangas Mayors' League, the group included Mayors Rafael Amorao of Mabini, Pedro Castillo of Alitagtag, Jacinto Mendoza of Agoncillo, Florentino Macatañgay of Lobo, Mariano Venturansa of Lemery, and Pedro Gonzales of Tanauan.

Other provincial delegations included those from Surigao headed by Rep. Reynaldo P. Honrado and Gov. Fernando Silvosa, from Isabela headed by Rep. Samuel F. Reyes and Gov. Felix T. Caro, from Leyte accompanied by Rep. Francisco M. Pajao, and from Cabanatuan City headed by Mayor Teodoro P. Santiago.

Among individual callers who saw the President this morning were Senate Majority Floor Leader Cipriano Primicias and Sens. Alejo Mabanag and Edmundo B. Cea; Reps. Tobias Fornier of Antique, Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo, Pedro Lopez and Isidro Kintanar of Cebu, Jose Roy of Tarlac, Vicente L. Peralta of Sorsogon, Felix A. Fuentebella of Camarines Sur, Angel M. Castaño of Manila, and Jacobo Gonzales of Laguna; Govs. Juan Alberto of Catanduanes, Patricio Fernandez of Palawan, Francisco Infantado of Mindoro Oriental, Paciencia G. Ysalina of Misamis Oriental, Dominador Chipeco of Laguna, and Damaso Samonte of Ilocos Norte; Senator-elect Pacita Madrigal Warns, and Mayors Manuel Santos of Taytay and Francisco Francisco of Teresa, both of Rizal province.

AFTER receiving callers, the President had lunch with three Filipino couples residing in the United States who had been very active in periodic fund raising campaigns among the Filipino communities in the West Coast for the benefit of disaster victims in the Philippines. They were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Barba, Mr. and Mrs. Ernesto Reyes, and Mr. and Mrs. Eutiquio Ramirez.

IN the afternoon, the President received the letters of credence of Chen Chih-Mai, who replaces Chen Chih-Ping as ambassador of the Republic of China to the Philippines.

The presentation of credentials, held at the Malacañang ceremonial hall, was attended by Cabinet members and officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs and by the staff of the Chinese embassy.

Ambassador Chen, in his presentation speech, said that the Chinese Government and people have viewed with particular satisfaction “the great success which the Philippine Government and people, under Your Excellency’s inspired leadership, have achieved in the suppression of Communist subversion, and in the institution of democratic reforms in the interest of social justice.” The Chinese Ambassador added that inspired by a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation “our two countries will be able amiably to resolve the common problems before us and to continue in our efforts to defend the cause of human freedom, justice, and peace.”

In his response, President Magsaysay said he was pleased to note the Republic of China’s interest in “our modest efforts to counter Communist subversion and in the institution of democratic reforms in the interest of social justice.”

The President added he was deeply touched by “your kind words on the heroic struggle of our two countries against external aggression and in our efforts to fight for national freedom and independence.”

Fetches by Capt. Agerico Palaypay and Jose S. Estrada, Foreign Affairs chief of protocol, the Chinese Ambassador and his party arrived at Malacañang at 4 p.m. They were given honors by a unit of the Presidential Guards Battalion.

After the presentation ceremony, the President introduced the Chinese ambassador to officials headed by Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia, Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez, Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno, Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevos, Health Secretary Paulino Garcia, Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, Finance Undersecretary Jose Trinidad, Assistant Executive Secretary Enrique C. Quema, and the Malacañang protocol officer, Manuel G. Zamora.

The Foreign Affairs officials present were Undersecretary Raul S. Manglapus; Counselors Octavio L. Maloles, Gauttier F. Bisnar, Benito Bautista, and Jose Ma. Espino; and Rodolfo Severino, Pedro Angara-Aragon, Iluminado G. Torres, and Antonio Prats, Jr.

The Ambassador’s staff which was introduced to the President consisted of Counselor Tien Pao-tai, Air-Military-Naval Attache Lieut. Col. Chen Ping-ching, First Secretary and Consul General Sun Jui-Chuan, First Secretary Lee Chi, and First Secretary Wel-Yu-sun.

After the ceremonies, the President and the Ambassador exchanged toasts.

AFTER receiving Chinese Ambassador Chen Chih-Mai, the President met with members of the consultative council of students.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay administered the oath of office to Pastor M. Endencia, presiding justice of the Court of Appeals, as associate justice of the Supreme Court in a brief ceremony held at Malacañang shortly before noon today.

“I have no qualms about this appointment,” the President said after the induction. “Justice Endencia had been with me in the Cabinet as secretary of education and I know we have chosen the right man to fill the vacancy in our high tribunal.”

Present at the ceremony were Mrs. Endencia, Rep. Manuel Enverga of Quezon, some justices of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals, and other friends and admirers of the new appointee.

December 21.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning received members of the Federation of Sugarcane Planters who petitioned him to make Philippine National Bank President Arsenio Jison as member of the PNB board of directors.

According to the sugarcane planters, who also spoke on behalf of the Philippine Chamber of Agriculture, Jison has been of great help to the producers and it was only proper to make him a member of the PNB board of directors. They also argued that Jison was in the best position to know the policies of the PNB.

The sugarcane planters further pointed out that previous presidents of the PNB were members of the board, some of them as vice-chairmen. The President said that he had already thought of making Jison a member of the board of directors but that the matter had been under study. The sugarcane planters were accompanied by Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma and headed by Jose Gomez.

Sen. Gil Puyat accompanied another group composed of retired Philippine Constabulary men who requested the President to approve a petition asking for the grant of their pensions in installments. The retired PC men were receiving their pensions in a lump sum. The Chief Executive approved their request.

Another caller of the President was Raul Contreras of San Beda College, who had been chosen to represent the Philippines at the *New York Herald-Tribune* forum to be held in New York. The Chief Executive wished the young student good luck and told him he was a goodwill ambassador as a representative of his country.

Gov. Juan Triviño of Camarines Sur also called and was given assurance by the President that the dredge coming soon from the United States will be used to dredge the Bicol River, as he requested.

Other callers of the President before he presided over the regular Cabinet meeting were Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia and ex-Senator Olegario Clarin, Sen. Fernando Lopez, ex-Sen. Felisberto Verano, and Governor-elect Bernardino Almeda of Surigao.

THE President today directed Acting Executive Secretary Mariano Yenko, Jr., to order Board of Liquidators Chairman Filomeno Kintanar to suspend the delivery of thousands of steel mattings to a certain Cirilo Damian.

The directive of the President was prompted by a report in a morning daily that the steel mattings were sold and were being delivered to Damian without public bidding and at a "very low price."

The steel mattings, according to the letter published in the morning paper, are in the possession of the Civil Aeronautics Administration, at the Manila International Airport but are being disposed of by the Board of Liquidators.

Kintanar verbally informed Malacañang after receiving the order that the steel mattings were sold to Damian without public bidding because the transaction fell under a salvage contract with the Board of Liquidators. Secretary Yenko required Kintanar to cancel the delivery of the steel-matting and to submit a written report.

MEANWHILE, PCAC Chairman Frisco San Juan denied a story which appeared in another morning daily today saying that the PCAC was pressing a probe of "charges linking the ACCFA with alleged irregularities in connection with purchase of locally grown Virginia leaf tobacco."

San Juan said that no charges, whatsoever have been filed with the PCAC against the ACCFA. He said that he knew absolutely nothing about the story. He also said that nobody has filed charges with the PCAC against Col. Manuel Turingan, chairman and general manager of the Philippine Tobacco Administration, for "official indifference" as also reported.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today signed Executive Order No. 145, waiving the additional progressive taxes to be collected from, and paid by, proprietors and operators of certain sugar mills for the crop years 1953-1954 and 1954-1955

According to the executive order, the imposition of the additional progressive taxes on certain sugar centrals "would be unduly oppressive and, in a few instances, even confiscatory in effect" because most of the sugar centrals in the country "are still undertaking the rehabilitation of their facilities, including the buildings and dwelling houses of their laborers, which were damaged during the last war, and are incurring heavy expenditures for this purpose."

Another reason for the issuance of the executive order was that some of the centrals have been operating at a loss, and others at profits which were inconsiderable.

The executive order also waived the additional progressive taxes for the crop years 1953-1954 and 1954-1955 for the Central Santos Lopez Co., Inc., provided that the planter's participation shall be increased until the planters' participation will have reached 60 per cent effective the crop year 1957-1958 as provided for in the 10-year contract between the central and the planters.

AT the Cabinet meeting today, the President informed of the killing of Huk commander Eddie Villapando by scout rangers, directed the awarding of cash payments to the soldiers responsible for the killing.

The President said he considered the award a special case in view of the fact that Executive Order No. 7, creating the peace and amelioration fund commission, provides that such rewards be given only to civilians.

Upon receiving information from Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol that the killers of Villapando were soldiers and hence were not eligible to the awards because of the executive order, the President said that he would amend the executive order to include soldiers as recipients of the awards under special conditions. Crisol sat in for Defense Secretary Sotero B. Cabahug, who could not attend the Cabinet meeting, as he officiated at the observance of the 20th anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Philippines at Camp Murphy.

UPON recommendation of Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, the President signed at the Cabinet meeting the reinstatement papers of Private Schools Director Daniel Salcedo, who had been acquitted by the Manila court of first instance of electioneering charges in connection with the 1953 polls. Hernandez said that with Salcedo's acquittal, administrative charges against him which had been based on the criminal charge, would automatically be dismissed.

As today's meeting was the last scheduled Cabinet meeting for 1955 and immediately preceded Christmas the Cabinet members drafted a resolution extending to the President and his family their "best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

The resolution added that Cabinet members "individually and collectively, pledge anew their official and personal loyalty and cooperation to the President, with sincere and fervent prayers for his continued good health and the success of his administration."

The President thanked the Cabinet members for their resolution and extended to them in return the greetings of the season. He presided over the Cabinet meeting from 10:40 a.m. to 12 noon.

IMMEDIATELY after the Cabinet meeting, the President made a surprise appearance at the Officers' Club luncheon in Camp Murphy, where the AFP was celebrating its 20th anniversary. The President was accompanied only by his aide, Major Pat Garcia.

The President took the opportunity to congratulate the Armed Forces for the progress they have made in the peace-and-order campaign which has resulted lately in the killing of three Huk commanders. The President also announced

his decision in the Cabinet allowing the giving of cash awards to the soldier-killers of Huk Commander Villapando, as a special case.

IN the evening, the President returned to Camp Murphy to attend the reception and ball at the Officers' Club.

December 22.—EARLY this morning, the President received at Malacañang Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson of Manila, who called to reiterate his request for the transfer of the government radio station DZFM from the City Hall. Lacson said the transfer of the station was necessary to remedy the congestion of office space in the City Hall. The President told Lacson the DZFM had reserved space in the GSIS building, now under construction, for its new quarters.

The President also received Sen. Quintin Paredes, who called to congratulate him on his stand against the proposed hiking of taxes and his having ordered the investigation of the Malacañang "racket buster." Paredes said these two actions of the President had been well received by the people. He said it was well that a definite policy on the projected increase in taxes had been announced by the President to reassure the local business community which, according to him, was becoming jittery and demoralized because of conflicting reports on the matter.

President Magsaysay this morning motored to the Funeraria Quiogue on Azcarraga and viewed the remains of M/Sgt. Francisco Camacho of the 1st Scout Ranger Regiment, PA, who had been killed during a Huk encounter in Laguna Tuesday night (December 20) which resulted in the slaying of Huk Commander Eddie Villapando and two of his aides.

Arriving at the funeral parlor about 10:30 a.m., the President interviewed Lt Jose Fariñas, commanding officer of the slain trooper, who gave the Chief Executive his version of the encounter. He also condoled with Mrs. Pacita Camacho Milla, 27, sister of Sgt Camacho, the only relative whom the President found in the funeral parlor standing by the flag-draped coffin of the slain ranger.

The President left for the funeral parlor about 10:20 a.m. He returned to Malacañang shortly before 11 a.m.

President Magsaysay today named Judge Salvador Esguerra, Malacañang legal adviser, to take over the investigation of the garlic transaction involving Judge Guillermo B. Guevara.

Esguerra will take over from Secretary of Justice Pedro Tuason, who had asked to be relieved of the case in view of the fact that he (Tuason) was legal counsel to the ACCFA, which Guevara had threatened to sue in connection with the transaction.

The President asked Tuason to turn over to Esguerra all papers pertaining to the case.

SOME 24,000 poor and indigent children from Manila and the suburbs shared the joy of Christmas as they received gift packages this afternoon at the 1955 Malacañang Christmas Festival sponsored by Mrs. Luz Banzon Magsaysay.

As the children were accompanied by at least two persons, the festival committee and the Presidential Guards Battalion estimated the total crowd present at Malacañang grounds at around 75,000, the biggest ever to assemble in Malacañang.

The gift distribution was specially characterized by the efficient manner in which the affair was handled. In spite of the overflow crowd standing shoulder to shoulder, the distribution was orderly and fast, lasting only from 2:20 to 4 p.m. Only one case of commotion was caused by a woman who fainted and was lifted by the guards and taken to the first aid station. This caused people in Section "Y" to scramble for better positions. However, order was soon restored. Some children also fainted, but otherwise nobody got hurt and all immediately recuperated after being administered first aid.

President Magsaysay himself, who walked through the crowd as his car could not enter Gate 4, expressed surprise over the quick and systematic manner in which the gifts were distributed.

Mrs. Magsaysay, who wore a white dress with a tunic effect skirt, personally began distributing the gifts at 2:20 p.m. after the Christmas candle ceremony and the community singing of Christmas carols. She was assisted by some 300 prominent matrons consisting of wives of Cabinet members and representatives of civic organizations and metropolitan society, aided by Boy and Girl scouts.

Mrs. Magsaysay led in the lighting of eight Christmas candles which signified the holding of eight Malacañang Christmas festivals for poor children. She was assisted by Mesdames Carlos P. Garcia; Homer Ferguson, Alfredo Montelibano, Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., Eleuterio Adevos, Daniel Z. Romualdez, and Benito Legarda.

The program was held on the stage adjoining the east wing of the Executive Office Building. The stage decoration's main motif was the adoration of the Child Jesus by the Three Kings.

As Mrs. Magsaysay was distributing the gifts, an 89-year-old woman who brought with her granddaughter and great granddaughter approached the First Lady and asked for Christmas packages. Although the woman did not have gift tickets, Mrs. Magsaysay took compassion and made her case an exception, granting her wish.

The ceremonies were televised for the Columbia Broadcasting System and broadcast by local radio stations. Enrique H. Davila, dressed as Santa Claus, lent color to the program. Francisco "Koko" Trinidad acted as master of ceremonies.

IN the afternoon, the President motored out of Malacañang for an airing on Dewey Boulevard. He returned about 5 p.m. and received Malacañang newsmen at an impromptu *merienda* press conference.

During the impromptu press conference, the President signed Administrative Order No. 160, creating a tax advisory board which will undertake studies of possible reforms in the present system of taxation.

The President said the new body is charged with the responsibility of reorganizing the existing system of taxation. He told newsmen that the creation of the board was prompted by the reported confusion in the tax policy of the Administration following announcement last Monday that the President was against any increase in taxes.

Members of the tax advisory board are Finance Secretary Jamie Hernandez, chairman, Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, CB Governor Miguel Cuaderno, BIR Collector Silverio Blaquera, Customs Commissioner Manuel P. Manahan, BIR Deputy Collector Jose Arañas, Alfonso Calalang, and Artemio M. Lobrin, as members.

December 23.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay presented the Medal for Valor, the Army's highest award, to the sobbing widow of Sgt. Francisco M. Camacho, who wept unashamedly even as the National Anthem was being played, and to Cpl. Weenie Martillana for their killing of notorious Huk Commander Eddie Villapando and two other Huk leaders.

The Medal for Valor was awarded to Sgt. Camacho (posthumously) and to Cpl. Martillana at a ceremony held at the Malacañang grounds in the presence of relatives of the two heroes and high ranking officials of the Government and the Army.

The citation, read by the presidential senior aide, Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo, said that "the extraordinary heroism and indomitable courage displayed by Master Sergeant Camacho and Corporal Martillana will inevitably form a part of the glorious traditions of our Armed Forces."

Mrs. Expectation Camacho, the widow, wept unashamedly as the members of the Presidential Guards Battalion and elements of the Scout Rangers, to which the heroes were attached, stood at attention and the National Anthem was played. The President, who was beside Mrs. Camacho, held her in one arm and comforted her.

The award was first presented by the President to Mrs. Camacho and then to Cpl. Martillana, an alert-looking soldier. Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug and Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff, assisted the President in presenting the awards.

Before the ceremony started, Mrs. Camacho, who wanted the remains of her husband taken to Virac, Catanduanes, his town, was prevailed upon by ranking Army officers to reconsider her wish because the remains and name of Sgt. Camacho “do not now belong to you nor to the people of Catanduanes alone but to the people of the Philippines.” Mrs. Camacho gave her consent to have the remains of her husband buried at the National Military Cemetery (Libingan ng mga Bayani) in Fort Wm. McKinley.

Mrs. Camacho was accompanied by Angeles Camacho, younger brother of the hero, relatives Castor Vargas and NASSCO Chairman Ulpiano Sarmiento, and Rep. Francisco Perfecto, Gov. Juan Alberto, and Board Member Lico Azicate of Catanduanes.

After the presentation ceremony, the Presidential Guards Battalion and the elements of the Scout Ranger passed in review. Others at the ceremony were Acting Executive Secretary Mariano Yenko, Jr., Brig. Gen. Alfredo M. Santos, commanding general of II MA under which was attached the Scout Rangers unit of Sgt. Camacho and Cpl Martillana, the AFP General Staff, Col. Ernesto Mata, Scout Rangers commanding officer, and other ranking officers.

The Medal for Valor had been awarded to only three persons before Sgt. Camacho and Cpl. Martillana; namely, Lt. Col. Egmidio Cruz under the direction of the late President Quezon, the late Capt. Diosdado Yap for heroism in Korea, and Maj. Gen. Mariano Castañeda for kicking away the grenade intended for the late President Roxas.

The Medal for Valor was awarded to the two heroes under the direction of the President Another honor heaped upon Sgt Camacho was the naming of the PC camp in Catanduanes after him upon recommendation of Rep. Perfecto. An Air Force plane was also ordered by the President to be dispatched to Catanduanes to bring the other relatives of Sgt Camacho to Manila for the burial. The Army band will be in attendance at the burial, the date of which is yet to be set.

The Medal for Valor carries with it a Presidential nomination for any 17-year old son of the recipient to the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio City.

BEFORE awarding the medals, the President motored to the Department of Public Works and Communications, where he conferred with Secretary Florencio Moreno on the progress of the public works projects all over the country.

In the afternoon, the President left the Palace to visit relatives. He returned to Malacañang early in the evening.

December 24.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today directed Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason to designate Mariano Almada of the National Bureau of Investigation as special prosecutor to assist the provincial fiscal of Isabela in the handling of murder cases unearthed by the latter as presidential investigator.

The President issued the directive following a conference with Almada, who called to submit his latest report on his investigations in the province. In his report, Almada recommended that the BCT assigned in the area be integrated to the PC unit there. He said the PC unit was inadequate to cope with the situation.

Almada reported that aside from 86 unsolved murder cases in the records of the local Constabulary, he found about 50 more unrecorded ones. He said that robbery was rampant in the whole province, especially in the municipality of Santiago, where robbery was being committed every night.

EARLIER, the President conferred with Col. Salvador T. Villa, MRR general manager, who reported on the progress of his program for the modernization of railroad services. Villa said that four diesel electric locomotives, two air-conditioned coaches for the Southern Lines, and four diesel rail cars would be arriving next week.

Two more diesel locomotives, six diesel rail cars, and 10 deluxe third class passenger coaches would be arriving in January. The new third class coaches would be equipped with electric fans and plush seats with arm rests.

Villa also informed the President that heavy diesel locomotives weighing 92 tons with top speed of 82 miles per hour would be here in February. With the heavy locomotives would arrive 10 more smaller diesel locomotives, 10 more deluxe third class coaches, and 100 all-steel box cars.

Villa reported that the MRR had already started its rock-crushing program intended to reinforce all railroad tracks with hard crushed rock in preparation for the high speed diesel operations next year.

The President also held conferences in the morning with Acting Executive Secretary Mariano Yenke, Jr., GSIS Manager Rodolfo P. Andal, Judge Salvador Esguerra, and Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff.

The President issued in the afternoon the following Christmas message:

“The government is doing everything within its power to bring about better standards of living for all, especially for those in the barrios. We are laying the foundations upon which to fashion a more peaceful, more substantial, and more progressive way of life. This is my dream for all, and with God’s help and with your support and cooperation it is taking on shape. The full realization of this dream is my fervent Christmas wish for our countrymen.

“I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.”

PRESIDENT and Mrs. Magsaysay spent Christmas Eve in the traditional Filipino way with a midnight mass and a *noche buena* at Malacañang with their children and close relatives. The usual austerity that has prevailed over all festivities in Malacañang since the advent of the Magsaysay administration marked the first family’s Christmas celebration.

December 25.—AFTER hearing the midnight mass with their family and close relatives, the President and the First Lady led their guests to the family dining hall, where a simple midnight snack consisting of native dishes and fruits were served.

Upon reading in the morning papers of the arrest of the three suspects who allegedly fired at a Rural Transit passenger bus, resulting in the killing of eight and the wounding of 17 passengers, the President decided to go to Camp Olivas to question the suspects personally.

THE President granted executive clemency to 67 prisoners this day, Christmas Day.

Of the 67, 48 were given conditional pardons, eight absolute pardons, three special absolute pardons, and eight commutation of sentences. All 67 prisoners were granted clemency on the recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole.

ABOUT 10 a.m., the President and the First Lady left for Camp Olivas. On the way, they visited Mrs. Lucila Rosauro-Banzon, Mrs. Magsaysay’s mother, who is ailing.

Arriving at the camp at 12:15 p.m., the President was met by Brig. Gen. Leoncio S. Tan, 1st MA commanding general, who said that three trigger men of the Carranglan ambush had already been arrested. He said that Segundo, one of the three, was still being questioned while the other two, Pablo Dapian and Vicente Cainit, had been taken to Bayombong, Nueva Viscaya, for further interrogation on other possible angles of the case.

Brought before the President, Segundo narrated his role in the ambush. He pointed to Pablo Dapian, his brother-in-law, and Vicente Cainit as the mastermind and his companion, respectively, in the ambush. One other unnamed member of the ambush gang was still at large. Segundo, however, could not explain the motive of the ambush.

When asked by the President why he confessed, Segundo answered that his brother-in-law had been maltreating his wife (Segundo's sister) and added that he feared that Dapian might commit another ambush.

The President learned from the 1st MA officers that the arrest was the result of an intensified house-to-house investigation by Army operatives working on the case. One of the things found by the investigators was the fact that the hand guard of a carbine picked up near the scene of the ambush fitted into the carbine allegedly used in the ambush and which was later recovered after Segundo had pointed to the place where it had been hidden.

President Magsaysay was pleased with the progress of the investigation work being conducted by the Army. However, he told Gen. Tan to continue the investigation until the motives of the ambush would have been established and the perpetrators brought to justice.

The President and the First Lady ate lunch with Gen. and Mrs. Tan at the latter's quarters in the camp. They returned to Malacañang, arriving at 4:40 p.m.

December 26.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning directed Secretary of Education Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., to study the establishment of agricultural and mechanical high schools in the country.

The President said the agricultural and mechanical high schools, if established here, could be patterned after some A and M schools abroad, especially in the United States, which are successful in turning out students well trained in agriculture and mechanics.

The Chief Executive also said mathematics and physics should be compulsory subjects in public high schools. The President was informed that the two subjects are at present given in public schools as optional subjects.

The President also had a conference with Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno, Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, National Waterworks and Sewage Authority Chairman and General Manager Susano Negado Vicente Asuncion of the Tariff Commission, and Director Benjamin Gozon of the Bureau of Mines.

Discussed by the Chief Executive with the officials were the accomplishments of their offices in 1955 and their programs for 1956. The President directed Secretary Moreno to speed up the construction of feeder roads and irrigation systems. Negado was ordered by the President to put up more artesian wells in places where water systems were inefficient.

Budget Commissioner Aytona briefed the President on the proposed budget for the next fiscal year. Director of Mines Gozon was called by the President to shed light on some mining prospects in the country.

The President also conferred with Customs Commissioner Manuel P. Manahan and MRR General Manager Col. Salvador Villa on the coming transfer of the Manila arrastre service from Delgado Brothers to the government. Others who saw the President were Lt. Col. Ramon Gelvezon, and Maj. Dominador Dawa of the Constabulary.

THE President today was officially informed by Constabulary officers that robbery was the motive of the bus ambush in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija, last week eight persons were killed.

The report was verbally given to the President by Lt. Col. Ramon Gelvezon, chief of the PC criminal investigation section, and Maj. Dominador Dawa, executive officer of PC affairs in the 1st MA. The two officers explained to the President that no money was taken from the passengers of the bus after it was rained with bullets because two trucks were seen arriving at the ambush scene and the ambushers ran away.

Two garand rifles, which were found to be the guns fired at the ambush, were shown to the President. According to the PC officers, one of the garands fired four clips of ammunition or 32 bullets. The guns used by the ambushers were found after Jose Segundo, one of the ambushers, showed where they were hidden. The guns were examined at the ballistics laboratory at Camp Murphy.

Lt. Col. Gelvezon told the President that the ambushers will be charged with multiple murder and illegal possession of firearms. The PC criminal investigation chief also asked the President for a mobile ballistics laboratory which would include two patrol cars. The request was approved by the President.

Upon learning that the wife of Pablo Dapian, alleged mastermind of the ambush, was sick, the President sent a telegram to Lt. Col. Geronimo Malilin, PC commander in Nueva Ecija, ordering him to take the ailing wife of the alleged mastermind to a hospital.

The PC officers also reported to the President that a total of eight firearms were examined for ballistics and only the two garands were found positive. The President congratulated Lt. Col. Gelvezon and Maj. Dawa for the solution of the ambush.

December 27.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning issued Proclamation No. 238, declaring December 31 this year a special public holiday “to enable the people to enjoy an uninterrupted Christmas vacation.”

The President refrained from receiving callers today in his desire to clear his desk of pending state papers before the New Year comes around. He spent most of the morning in his private study, where he worked over a pile of pending state documents brought to him by Acting Executive Secretary Mariano Yenko, Jr.

The President also had conferences with his legal advisers, Prof. Enrique M. Fernando and Judge Salvador Esguerra, and later with Press Secretary J. V. Cruz and Legislative Secretary Jose Nable.

Shortly after 11 a.m., the President left Malacañang for a conference with Department of National Defense officials in Camp Murphy. Going down to the Palace front door to board his car, he was intercepted by a large delegation of farmers from Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, and Pangasinan who presented him with a resolution wishing him a “Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year” and thanking him for all the things he had done to alleviate the plight of the tenants.

Headed by Mayors Benedicto Ramos of Cuyapo and Benjamin Marquez of Nampicuan, both of Nueva Ecija, and Silvestre Sabado of Anao, Tarlac, the delegation also requested that farmers be represented in the newly-created Land Tenure Administration and the purchase of a number of landed estates in their localities.

Among others who were able to see the President at the Palace front door this morning were Reps. Guillermo R. Sanchez of Agusan, Manuel T. Cases of La Union, and Bartolome C. Cabangbang of Bohol.

IN the afternoon, the President resumed work on a pile of pending state papers.

THE President today directed Prof. Enrique M. Fernando to aid Frisco San Juan, chairman of the PCAC, in the evaluation of the evidence thus far gathered in the complaint filed against certain past and present officials of the Games and Amusements Board and to study the other legal aspects of the matter.

Prof. Fernando conferred today with the complainant, Alfonso Marasigan, who unburdened himself of his grievances against the GAB and promised to hold himself ready for further questioning.

In the meanwhile, the papers of the case are with San Juan, preparatory to their being turned over to Professor Fernando. In returning the papers to San Juan, the President directed a more thorough inquiry into some aspects of the case, among them the extent of responsibility of the GAB accountant and the auditor who had prepared and approved some allegedly unjustified vouchers made out in favor of some GAB officials and personnel.

December 28.—THE President today assured help to a large groups of NAMARCO employees who complained that they were being laid off as a result of the NAMARCO management's decision abolishing all regional offices and agencies.

After receiving the employees, the President called for NAMARCO Manager Manuel "Dindo" Gonzalez and told him to open up the old agencies of the corporation. NAMARCO closed the agencies and designated private distributors to take their place.

Gonzalez, after seeing the President, immediately sent out a notice calling all NAMARCO agency employees to file their applications as general distributors for NAMARCO goods. He said the NAMARCO agency employees will be given priority.

The employees submitted a petition to the President claiming that the abolition of the regional offices and agencies resulted "in the separation from the service of more than 400 of our employees, many of whom have been with our corporation from six to 10 years."

The employees were unanimous in petitioning the President to intercede in their behalf for the return of the NAMARCO agencies. They claimed that "the new policy of the NAMARCO in the appointment of private merchants as general distributors has resulted in the creation of middlemen."

According to Gonzalez, the agencies will be re-opened and agency employees who will want to be general distributors will have to put up their own capital. They will get the profits of three per cent on highly essential goods, five per cent on essentials, and eight per cent on non-essentials.

The President received the employees at his executive office and assured them that he would be on their side if the NAMARCO was really at fault.

THE Chief Executive had breakfast with Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff, and Col. Nicanor Jimenez, who reported to him that the communists in the country were now concentrating on the legal phase of their struggle. The President directed Gen. Vargas and Col. Jimenez to intensify the drive against the communists.

The President also conferred with Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez and Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, Sr.

At the meeting of the Cabinet this day, President Magsaysay discussed with Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona the progress of the preparation of the budget for the next fiscal year, stressing the philosophy of "maximum public service to the people at the minimum cost." The Cabinet also:

(1) Discussed extensively the contemplated tariff changes with a view to protecting local industries and thus accelerate the industrialization of the country; and

(2) Heard President Magsaysay deny that he had cleared Judge Guillermo B. Guevara of the garlic case.

Although the Cabinet was supposed to enjoy a recess during the Christmas holidays, the President had to call a Cabinet meeting to discuss important matters. The Cabinet met from 10:45 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Commissioner Aytona briefed the Cabinet on the progress of the preparation of the National Government budget for the next fiscal year 1956-57 which follows the pattern set by the directive of the President of rendering maximum public service to the people at the minimum cost.

Aytona informed the Cabinet that the Budget Commission had started Tuesday night to determine the amount of expenditures for each government agency which would be recommended for inclusion in the President's budget. He

explained that in implementing the President's policy of strict economy in government spending, the Commission was guided by the following policies:

- (1) Reduce budgetary proposals for the normal operating expenses of the government, particularly those pertaining to the functions of general government, national defense, and maintenance of peace and order;
- (2) The economies in the normal operating expenses of the government, together with any additional funds available, are to be allocated for expanding the rural improvement program of the Administration and for increasing the outlays for economic development such as those for agriculture and natural resources, commerce and industry, transportation and communication, and capital investments;
- (3) No increase in expenditures for social development functions — education, health and medical care, and labor and welfare — are to be allowed except only to provide for the normal expansion of these services as a result of the natural increase of population. This will mean additional elementary classes to accommodate increasing number of children coming of school age, expansion of rural health services and medical facilities, etc., including the P17 million adjustment of teachers' salaries; and
- (4) Reserve the use of national credit for income-creating projects which directly increase the productive capacity of the country.

Aytona informed the Cabinet that the personnel of the Budget Commission were continuously rendering overtime services extending, whenever necessary, up to early morning hours, in order to assure that the President's budget for the fiscal year 1958-57 is finished before the deadline for its submission to Congress.

The President then discussed extensively with NEC Chairman Alfredo Montelibano, Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, and Commissioner Aytona, changes to be made in the tariff rates in order to protect local industries and strengthen the industrialization program of the Administration.

Montelibano said that the present tariff rates dated back to 1909 and, according to him, were obsolete, in relation to the country's present circumstances and needs. He said that the rates did not take into consideration the protection of local industries but were intended only for revenue-raising purposes.

FINANCE Secretary Hernandez presided over a meeting of the Tax Advisory Board in the afternoon which discussed changes in the tariff rates. The advisory board then met with NEC Chairman Montelibano for further consultation on the rates. The new rates will be submitted to the President for his consideration immediately.

According to Republic Act 1196, the authority granted to the President to effect new tariff rates will expire on December 31, 1955.

THE President denied that he had cleared Judge Guevara of liability in the garlic case. He emphatically denied the report saying that he would like to disabuse the minds of the people that such report was true. He said it was impossible for him to have cleared Guevara because the garlic case was still under study and he was waiting for the report of Judge Salvador Esguerra before he could say anything on the matter.

The President said that what he had discussed with Guevara was the barter of the imported garlic with the native variety. The President said that in reply to Guevara's request to barter the imported with native garlic, he had told Guevara to send his request to the secretary of agriculture and natural resources.

A PLAN to Spur the development of small industries producing native products throughout the country was discussed by Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, Sr., today before the Cabinet at the request of President Magsaysay.

The plan, according to Governor Cuaderno, will result in creating a wide market for native products in the United States. He also said that the plan was expected to boost home industries throughout the country and provide substantial employment in the rural communities. Such home industries are the hat industry in Baliuag, Lucban, Bohol, and Calasiao, the handbag industry, and other home industries.

Cuaderno said that if foreign investors utilized their profits in buying native products for sale in the United States, they would be allowed to retain in the U. S. a part of the proceeds from the sale of the local products. Under the Exchange Control regulations, part of the profits of foreign investors can be sent out of the country if they are used to purchase native products for sale in the U. S.

The President today signed the *ad interim* appointment of Justice Alfonso Felix as presiding justice of the Court of Appeals. Until his appointment, Justice Felix was the senior associate justice of the Court of Appeals. He replaced Presiding Justice Pastor Endencia, who has been elevated to the Supreme Court.

December 29.—THE President received a limited number of callers this morning. He spent most of his time in his private study going over a pile of pending state papers. He was assisted by Acting Executive Secretary Mariano Yenke, Jr.

For the second consecutive day, the President received this morning Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff, who denied reports appearing in the morning papers that an LTB bus had been ambushed at Lumban, Laguna, yesterday. Vargas said the bus had been stopped by one of its passengers, a member of the civilian commando unit, in order to investigate three suspicious-looking individuals he had spotted along the roadside.

Gen. Vargas told the President that as the commando man got off the bus, he was fired upon by the trio and in the exchange of fire that ensued, some passengers in the bus were hurt.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today approved a two-month extension of the arrastre contract of Delbros, Inc., in order to give the company an opportunity to settle its affairs and to effect a gradual transfer of the arrastre service to the Manila Port Service, which will be jointly operated by the Manila Railroad Co. and the Bureau of Customs.

Customs Commissioner Manuel Manahan, in recommending the extension, said that a transition period was necessary in view of the congestion of cargoes at the piers at this time of the year. He also pointed out that because the Laurel-Langley Agreement would be in operation beginning January 1, American goods entering the country would then be subject to inspection for the purpose of imposing the necessary duties, thus increasing pier congestion.

Col. Salvador T. Villa and Lt. Col. Cipriano de Leon of the MRR, who endorsed the recommendation of Commissioner Manahan during a conference at Malacañang this morning, informed the President that the extension had been requested by shipping companies, brokers, and importers to give them time to adjust themselves. Col. Villa advanced the proposal that the MPS contract to operate the service be terminated in June, 1960 during a "slack", in cargo arrival. He said that turnover of arrastre service could not be effected abruptly in the months of December or January without serious economic disruption.

Commissioner Manahan reported during the conference that negotiations for the arrastre turnover were proceeding smoothly. He said that the Delgado Brothers had been very cooperative and that complete agreement had already been reached as to the terms and conditions on the transfer of Del-bros equipment.

The President, however, advised Manahan and Villa to submit the terms for approval of the secretary of finance and the MRR board of directors.

THE Chief Executive this morning also had a conference with Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., who submitted his proposal to finance the expansion of home industries centers sponsored by the Bureau of Public Schools currently producing native hats, handbags, bakia, and other novelty items for export to the United States.

Secretary Hernandez proposed that the centers be financed from “blocked pesos” consisting of unremitted profits of branches of foreign corporations in the Philippines. Hernandez’ proposal was in connection with the plan of Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno to invest these unremitted profits amounting to about P80 million in the development of small industries.

Shortly before 12 noon, the Chief Executive received a large delegation composed of sisters of the Religion of Virgin Mary now in a five-day conference at the St. Mary’s College in Quezon City. Representing some 47 schools all over the Philippines, the delegation sang for the President some Christmas carols and wished him a happy New Year.

The rest of his callers this morning included Senator-elect Francisco Rodrigo, Govs. Juan F. Triviño of Camarines Sur, Dominador Chipeco of Laguna, and Juan Frivaldo of Sorsogon; and former Deputy Central Bank Governor Alfonso Calalang.

THE President this day allowed the Bureau of Lands to resume issuing revocable or provisional permits for a temporary occupation and use of Baguio townsite lots, subject to some conditions.

In a letter to the secretary of agriculture, acting Executive Secretary Mariano Yenko, Jr., writing by authority of the President, said that the President had directed that the existing presidential ban promulgated in 1947 against the issuance of revocable permits in Baguio townsite be revoked.

The issuance of the revocable or provisional permits is subject, however, among other existing legal requirements to the following conditions:

- (1) That only certain areas not needed for public projects be the subject of an application for a permit;
- (2) That the permit desired shall not be issued unless the lot applied for has been appraised by the Baguio Appraisal Committee;
- (3) That, notwithstanding the issuance of a revocable or provisional permit, and pending the passage of a law to the contrary, the lot covered by such permit shall be sold at public auction to the highest bidder as required by section 79 of Commonwealth Act No. 141, as amended; and
- (4) That no applicant shall be issued any revocable or provisional permit if he is already the owner of a home lot in Baguio City.

Malacañang announced today that President Magsaysay has signed Administrative Order No. 161 under which Alberto Jimenez was considered resigned from office as provincial fiscal of Leyte effective December 8, 1954, the date of his original suspension.

The punishment meted out to Jimenez carried with it forfeiture of all leave and retirement privileges with prejudice to reinstatement in the government service.

An administrative case for alleged inexcusable ignorance of the law and illegal sale of firearms had been filed against Jimenez. The case had been investigated by a special investigator of the Department of Justice before whom the respondent was given full opportunity to be heard and to present evidence in his defense.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay assured ranking U. S. defense officials tonight that the Philippines “shall keep doing our share in the cause of preserving and upholding freedom and the dignity of man.”

“This is our New Year’s resolution for 1956,” he said, “just as it has been our New Year’s resolution throughout the past years.”

The President made these remarks during a formal dinner in honor of U.S. Secretary of Navy Charles Thomas and Admiral Arthur W. Radford, Chairman of the U.S. chiefs of Staff, and their ladies. At the close of the dinner, the President offered a toast to U.S. President Eisenhower's health.

Calling attention to the series of visits to the Philippines by top U.S. defense officials, the President said it seemed "there is very keen rivalry between the United States services—the army, navy, and air force—as to which can show the greatest interest and greatest concern for the security of the Philippines and of this area."

December 30.—EARLY in the morning, the President directed his aides to send a wreath to the Rizal monument on the Luneta.

The President stayed all morning in Malacañang as he closed the second year of his term as Chief Executive of the Philippines. He went over pending state papers in an effort to clear his desk as the close of the year.

MALACANANG announced today that the usual New Year's reception or "open house" by the President and First Lady will not be held this coming New Year's Day, as President Magsaysay will be out of town on that day.

IN the afternoon, the President had a crowded schedule. He spoke at two different places within three hours; first, at about 3:45 pm he, was guest speaker at the inauguration of the national headquarters building of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines on Concepcion Street; and second, at 5:30 p.m., at the inauguration of the National Press Club building at Magallanes Drive, he delivered the only speech.

At his BSP speech, the President stressed Rizal's exhortation to the youth that they should be "pure and spotless" so that their sacrifice for the country might be acceptable. He said that only those who possessed these sterling qualities could aspire to the country's leadership. He added that the youth should be like Sir Galahad whose strength was the strength of ten because his heart was pure.

The President repeated twice the last part of Rizal's exhortation to the youth: "Where are youth who will consecrate their golden hours, their illusions, and their enthusiasm to the welfare of their native land? Where are the youth who will generously pour out their blood to wash away so much shame, so much crime, so much abomination? Pure and spotless must be the victim be so that the sacrifice may be acceptable." (See next issue of the *Gazette* for the full text of the speech.)

In his NPC speech, the President reiterated the Administration's basic policy to "promote and enhance the freedom of the press." He said: "You can count on its (Administration's) support in any endeavor to correct any situation which endangers that freedom."

Explaining his reiteration of the pledge to maintain the freedom of the press on the occasion of the NPC building's inauguration which coincided with Rizal's martyrdom, the President said: "I am happy to renew this pledge not only this auspicious occasion for the Philippine press but on this day commemorating the great sacrifice for one who loved freedom more dearly than life." (Watch for next issue of the *Gazette* for the full text of the speech.)

The President, accompanied by his aide, Maj. Pat Garcia, motored to the BSP building at about 3:20 p.m. He was met at the inauguration grounds by BSP officials headed by Jorge B. Vargas, president and chief scout. Miss Teresita Magsaysay, the President's daughter, had arrived a few minutes earlier for the ceremony.

A special feature of the inauguration program was the awarding to the President of the eagle scout medal. The citation which was read by Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., said that the award was given in recognition of the President's scout-like qualities and conduct and his contribution to the uplift of the youth in the rural areas. Later when he delivered his speech, the President prefaced it by thanking the BSP organization for the honor granted him, adding humorously that it was a big jump from his initial rank as tenderfoot.

After the program, Miss Teresita Magsaysay cut the ceremonial ribbon with gold plated scissors, thus formally opening the imposing P5,000 building. Then the building was blessed by Archbishop Santos, assisted by Manuel B. Nolasco, assistant national scout commissioner.

The President together with the guests inspected the three floors of the building.

The President then returned to Malacañang and left at 4:50 p.m. for the NPC building inauguration. President and Mrs. Magsaysay were accompanied by Press Secretary J. V. Cruz and *Manila Times* Editor Jose P. Bautista. They were met in front of the building by NPC officers headed by President Teodoro F. Valencia.

At the NPC ceremonies, the President delivered the only address preceded by welcome remarks by Valencia. After the brief program, Mrs. Magsaysay cut the inaugural ribbon.

PRESIDENT and Mrs. Magsaysay then returned to Malacañang, where they honored at 8 p.m. the officers of the NPC with a formal dinner.

December 31.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay left early this morning for his home province, Zambales, where he spent the last day of the year, and the beginning of his third year of administration.

He motored to Nichols Air Base at 7:15 a.m. together with his Air Force aide, Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo, where they took a plane for Zambales.

He sent back Lt. Col. Borromeo to Manila in the afternoon to fetch a copy of the proclamation on the new tariff rates which will take effect beginning today.

A Malacañang spokesman said that the President left Mrs. Magsaysay behind in Malacañang to receive Francis Cardinal Spellman, who arrived in the Palace in the evening.

Cardinal Spellman is the house guest of the President and will stay in Malacañang until Tuesday morning before he flies back to New York. Spellman is in Manila in the course of his annual visit to Korea.

Mrs. Magsaysay, as the official hostess, tendered a simple New Year's Eve dinner for the visiting Cardinal.

Among the guests invited to the affair were Msgr. Egidio Vagnozzi papal nuncio to the Philippines; Msgr. Rufino J. Santos, archbishop of Manila; James MacMahon; and Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr.

While the First Lady was entertaining, the President inducted Manuel Barreto, as governor of Zambales in San Felipe, hometown of the new provincial governor.

THE President today designated Brig. Gen. Alfonso Arellano as vice-chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines effective January 1, 1956.

Gen. Arellano replaces Brig. Gen. Eulogio Balao, retired. Until his designation, the new vice-chief of staff was the commanding general of the Philippine Army Training Command and the 3rd Division, PA.

President Magsaysay also signed today the proclamation on the revision of tariff duties in accordance with the Laurel-Langley Agreement. The President signed the proclamation in Zambales, where he spent New Year's eve.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay issued this day the following New Year's message:

"The turn of the year is always time for taking stock—for counting the blessings of the outgoing year and sizing up prospects of the new year.

“The year 1955 has been a good year. Our democratic institutions have been strengthened; our program for rural development and well-being has moved forward steadily; we have begun an earnest effort to eliminate age-old evils of tenancy and agrarian oppression; we have continued to make considerable progress in many other fields of national endeavor. The year 1955 has been, like the year before it and the years to come, dedicated primarily to the social and economic advancement of the small man.

”In the coming year we shall push on with even greater vigor our rural improvement program and at the same time strive to open up new employment opportunities for our constantly growing labor forces many of whom are concentrated in the urban areas. We hope to be able to offer new incentives and inducements to both local and foreign investors. We hope that the new trade arrangements which will go into effect with the New Year will stimulate and strengthen the economy.

“Whatever we have accomplished in 1955 has been due, over and above everything else, the support, cooperation, and hard work of the people themselves. The same will hold true for 1956. High on the list of our New Year’s resolutions should be the resolve to work harder at our goals.

“A happy New Year to all!”

Source: National Library of the Philippines

Magsaysay, R. (1955). Official Month in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51 (12), dix-dlviii.

President's Month in Review: January, 1956

Official Month in Review

January 1.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay returned by plane this morning from his home province, Zambales. Arriving at 7:30 a.m., the President joined his family in hearing mass at the Palace chapel. The mass was officiated by Msgr. Rufino J. Santos, archbishop of Manila.

After his breakfast with his family, the President read the Sunday papers.

AT 11 a.m., the President motored again out of Malacañang for Sta. Maria, Bulacan, to look into the progress of "Operations Dispersal" in that area. He was accompanied by his son Ramon, Jr., and his aide, Maj. Pat Garcia.

"Operation Dispersal," a part of the Administration's program for the uplift of the standard of living of farmers throughout the country, features the distribution by the government of buffaloes and cows to farmers for breeding and dairy purposes on condition that their first and third off-springs will be turned over to the Bureau of Animal Industry for redistribution to other farmers.

The Chief Executive was accompanied to Sta. Maria, Bulacan, by Dr. Laureano Marquez, acting director of the Bureau of Animal Industry.

It was learned from Marquez that since the launching of "Operation Dispersal," a considerable number of Murrah buffaloes and cows have been imported from India and distributed to 11 provinces.

During the inspection, the Chief Executive met one of the farmer-beneficiaries of the operation, Cosme Catahan. The President was pleased when he saw Catahan's buffalo with its three-month-old offspring. He expressed optimism that this year more buffaloes and cows will be redistributed by the Bureau of Animal Industry.

President Magsaysay told Acting Director Marquez that he wanted "Operation Dispersal" intensified throughout the country. He said that he wanted the poor farmers in the barrios to benefit from this operation by means of improving and increasing the breed of their animals and at the same time to enrich their food by additional milk supply in their diet. The President expressed the hope that the farmers might be able in the future to sell part of the milk of their cows and thus improve their financial condition.

IN the afternoon, the President said that the victory of Mayor Arsenic H. Lacson and his team in the recent elections in Manila was significant in that it meant the victory of clean and honest government.

The President made these remarks in the course of his brief extemporaneous speech in Tagalog after inducting into office Mayor Lacson, Vice-Mayor Jesus Roces, and 12 councilors of the City of Manila at a ceremony at the Malacañang reception hall.

The city councilors inducted were: Leonardo Garcia, Antonio Barredo, Eduardo Quintos (LP), Pablo Dio Cruz, Fidel Santiago (LP), Fausto Alberto, Gonzalo Santos Rivera, Justo Albert, Angel Linao, Hermenegildo Gonzaga, Eriberto Remigio, and Apolonio Gener.

The President was given a warm applause as he spoke in the national language. He appealed to the city officials for cooperation in their efforts to give the people of Manila a good and efficient government. He said that he hoped there would be less wranglings among the city dads so that more service could be rendered to the people.

Explaining his appeal for unity and cooperation among the city officials, the President gave an apt Tagalog saying, "*Nagsuwagan ang toro, ngunit naipit ang mga bisero*," meaning to say that if there would be violent discord among the city officials, the people would suffer.

President Magsaysay said that although there were two Liberal Party councilors in the municipal board, he was confident that the minority members would cooperate with the majority in working for the welfare of the people.

“Let us pull together and dedicate all our efforts in helping to alleviate the sufferings of the people,” the President said.

The Chief Executive pledged to the city officials his whole-hearted support in implementing their plans to serve the City of Manila. “Come to me any time that you need my help and I will help you, he said.

The city officials were accompanied by their wives during the induction ceremony. Many city officials and a big crowd packed the reception room. People observed that Mayor Lacson wore a blue suit with two-buttoned coat and red tie and black-and-white shoes. The President wore a white coat, light brown trousers, and a maroon colored tie. All the other city officials wore *barong tagalog*.

After the induction, the President congratulated the city officials and their wives. He went around the long reception hall table and greeted the guests.

BEFORE the oath-taking, the President briefly conferred with Col. Harry F. Brenn of the ICA and Salvador Araneta of the National Economic Council. Later on the President also conferred with Al Valencia and Pedro Padilla. No announcement was made after the conference.

AT 5:15 p.m. the President and Mrs. Magsaysay motored to the Santissimo Rosario Church (UST chapel), where Mrs. Magsaysay was one of the sponsors at the wedding of Sen. Pacita Madrigal-Warns to Gonzalo Gonzalez.

January 2.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today told thousands massed at the Naga City plaza that the Administration has laid aside politics and would concentrate its efforts at alleviating the living conditions of the people, especially those in the barrios.

The President pledged the construction of the P1 million road leading to the Caranaoan peninsula which will open up for settlement an area equal in size to the province of Sorsogon. He ordered immediate construction of the road.

Later, the President also:

(1) Inspected the progress of the P2,400,000 Lake Buhi-Baret hydroelectric power project which is due for inauguration in August or September this year; and

(2) Officiated at the turn-over of the P50,000 Yabo Farm and Irrigation Dam to the farmers' association.

President Magsaysay flew down to Naga City early this morning principally to induct into office Gov. Juan F. Triviño, Board Members Jack Arroyo and William Bukid, the 34 municipal mayors of Camarines Sur, and the five elected Naga City councilors. The President administered the oath en masse to the officials assembled on the stage set up at the city's plaza in full view of thousands composing an enthusiastic crowd. He then congratulated the inductees.

After the oath taking, Gov. Triviño publicly thanked the President for the great help extended to Camarines Sur through the President. He mentioned financial aid received for the construction of public buildings, schoolhouses, irrigation systems, and feeder roads. He also said that the President had promised to send a dredge being imported from the United States to the province to dredge the Bicol River in order to prevent the recurrence of floods which had proved destructive in the past.

Naga City Mayor Monico Imperial, who acted as master of ceremonies during the program, also thanked the President for substantial aid extended to the city by the Chief Executive.

Speaking extemporaneously in Tagalog, the President said that the political struggle in the last elections was over and it was imperative that the leaders and the people irrespective of political persuasions should put their shoulders together in pushing forward the country's progress.

"If we have fought before," the President said, "let us be united now and subordinate our political feelings for the good of Camarines Sur." The President added that the people have had too much of politics. "Now," he said, "the government will indulge in less politics but will go hard at this objective of helping the people, the farmers, the poor man."

The President's appeal for unity and less politics was given an enthusiastic response by the audience. Among other Bicol political leaders present at the platform were Sens. Pedro Sabido and Edmundo B. Cea, Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, Reps. Felix A. Fuentebella of Camarines Sur and Fernando Pajarillo of Camarines Norte, Ambassador Jose Fuentebella, Camarines Norte Gov. Esmeraldo Eco, and Albay Gov. Nicanor M. Seva.

Continuing his speech, the President said that he would like to have Camarines Sur regain its prestige as the rice granary of that part of the country. This could be done, the President said, by giving more irrigation systems to the province. "Tell me" he added, "all the rivers and streams which can be sources of irrigation and I will give the necessary amount to construct the feasible irrigation dams so that your farmers can raise more rice."

The President's speech which lasted from 9:40 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. was well received by the audience. After his speech he was mobbed by the crowd which followed him to his car, wishing to greet him.

The presidential party motored to barrio Baret of Buhi, arriving there at 11:30 a.m. It was a 46-kilometer stretch which took one hour, a good portion of which was over a dusty, bumpy road.

Accompanied by, among others, Gov. Triviño, National Power Corporation General Manager Filemon Zablan, and Project Engineer Gregorio Racelis, the President walked almost a kilometer of rough and hilly terrain to view the progress of the work on the P2,400,000 Lake Buhi-Baret hydroelectric power project, which was nearing completion. Zablan told the President that the power project could generate 1,800 kilowatts and was ready for inauguration in either August or September. The NPC general manager said that the water was being diverted from the Baret River, which would be closed in about two months and then a dam would be built. He added that when completed the plant would supply light to Naga City, Buhi, Iriga, Nabua, Ba-ae, and Pili.

The President was pleased with the work being done and said that there should be no let-up in the construction so that the people could get good and cheap power.

The presidential party motored back to the Yabo Farm of Dr. Roberto Soler, a few kilometers from Naga City, where a popular luncheon was served at past 1 p.m.

AFTER luncheon, the President walked to the Yabo irrigation dam, which was a few minutes away and officiated at the turn-over of the dam to the farmers association of the area. District Irrigation Engineer Servando P. Suguitan, who supervised the construction of the dam, explained that it would irrigate some 1,000 hectares and benefit some 550 families. He said that before the improvement of the system, the area yielded some 27,000 cavans a year but after the improvement the yearly yield is expected to be some 51,000 cavans. He also estimated that the value of increase in production would be P192,000 each year.

The President was impressed by the dam which, he said, could be a great boon to the barrio farmers. He told Engineer Suguitan to proceed with the construction of three more national irrigation projects: namely, that in Cagaycay River for the towns of Goa, San Jose, and Lagmay; that in Binusaga River to irrigate the town of Pili; and that in Aslong River to irrigate the town of Libmanan. These projects will cost some P2,850,000. The President also authorized the construction of four more communal dams like the Yabo dam which will cost aggregately some P480,000.

At the turn-over ceremonies of the Yabo communal irrigation system, the President inducted into office the nine members of the Camarines Sur Provincial Agricultural Council with Jose Mercado as president. The ceremony was held right on the dam.

THE presidential party took off at 3:05 p.m. and arrived at the Nichols Air Base at 4:15 p.m. The presidential plane *Pagasa* and the *Bessang Pass* were used.

Among those in the presidential party were: Sens. Sabido, Cea, and Francisco Rodrigo; NAMARCO Manager M. J. Gonzalez; NPC Manager Zablan; Brig. Generals Eulogio Balao, Alfredo M. Santos, and Pelagio A. Cruz; Asst. Press Secretary Guillermo V. Sison; *Herald's* Nestor Mata; and presidential aide, Capt. Agerico Palaypay.

The President arrived at the Pili airport at 7:15 a.m. and proceeded to the Naga City Metropolitan Cathedral, where a thanksgiving mass and a *Te Deum* were said by Archbishop Santos. Breakfast was served afterwards at the residence of Secretary Hernandez.

January 3.—AFTER a harrowing trip to Camarines Sur yesterday where he inducted Gov. Juan F. Triviño, the President decided to rest. He called off his scheduled flight today to Cagayan, where he was slated to swear in Gov. Marcelo Adduru in Tuguegarao.

However, the President sent retired Brig. Gen. Eulogio Balao to represent him in the induction of Gov. Adduru. To reward Balao for the errand, the President named him acting secretary of national defense vice Secretary Sotero Cabahug, who was named associate justice of the Court of Appeals.

At 8:05 a.m., the President inducted Brig. Gen. Alfonso Arellano, PATC commander and 3rd Division (PA) commanding general, as vice-chief of staff of the Armed Forces, in the presence of Secretary Cabahug, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, and other ranking AFP officers.

SHORTLY before noon today, the President administered the oaths of office to Justice Alfonso Felix and Defense Secretary Sotero Cabahug as presiding justice and associate justice, respectively, of the Court of Appeals.

Justice Felix replaced Presiding Justice Pastor M. Endencia, who had been elevated to the Supreme Court, while Secretary Cabahug filled the post vacated by Justice Felix upon the latter's promotion to presiding justice of the Court of Appeals.

In inducting the justices, the President said that seniority in service as well as efficiency were both taken into account in considering promotions in the judiciary. He added, however, that in the executive department he placed efficiency as the prime consideration.

Present at the induction of the justices held about 11:20 a.m. were justices of the Court of Appeals, Mrs. Cabahug, Anna Marie Felix, daughter of Justice Felix, and other friends and relatives of the new appointees.

Justice Felix, the new presiding justice of the Court of Appeals, has been in the government service for about 50 years, having started as a stenographer in 1906. He was city fiscal of Manila from 1929 to 1936, then became judge of the court of first instance of Pangasinan and later of Manila. He was appointed to the Court of Appeals in December, 1946.

THE President this morning received Alfredo M. Bunye and Eriberto B Misa, Jr., director and assistant director, respectively, of the Bureau of Prisons who called to report on the progress of various projects designed to make their bureau self-sufficient.

Bunye informed the President that a total of 158,342 coffee trees had already been planted in the San Ramon, Davao, and Iwahig penal colonies and that he expected the Bureau of Prisons to be self-sufficient in this commodity after one year.

Families of victims of the recent ambush in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija, also called to thank the President for having taken a direct hand in the apprehension of the ambushers and for the assistance extended by the Government to them. Among those in this group were Mrs. Sergio Mercado, widow of the Bureau of Health engineer, and Mrs. Francisco Puzon, widow of the chairman of the MPM provincial committee in Nueva Ecija.

Other callers at Malacañang this morning were Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, who consulted the President on routine matters in his department; Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona; and Mayor Benigno Aquino, Jr., of Concepcion, Tarlac, who requested aid for fire sufferers in his municipality.

In the afternoon, after a brief nap, the President went over pending state papers in his study.

ABOUT 3:30 p.m., Acting Executive Secretary Mariano Yenka, Jr., inducted into office Mateo Ferrer as director of the Bureau of Printing and Primitivo Ballesteros as assistant director of printing, in the presence of relatives, friends, and division chiefs of the Bureau of Printing.

January 4.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay, accompanied by his aides, Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo and Maj. Pat Garcia, and Sen. Cipriano Primicias enplaned for Carmen, Rosales, Pangasinan, this morning to induct into office Gov. Conrado Estrella and his board members, Mesdames Dolores P. Acuña and Nancy Q. Sison. The President took off from Nichols Air Base at 8:30 a.m. and landed at 9:15 a.m. on an improvised airstrip near the residence of Gov. Estrella. Skyrockets exploded in the air as the President landed.

As the induction rites started, superstitious onlookers showed alarm as the Philippine flag, which was being hoisted, snapped out of the flagpole. The flag was being hoisted by three ladies; namely, Mrs. Conrado Estrella and the women board members-elect, when it suddenly dropped off from the flagpole.

President Magsaysay told the people of Pangasinan that any industrialization plans for the country should go “hand in hand” with the effort to raise living standards of the rural masses so that the latter may have the purchasing power to buy processed consumer goods.

The President made this statement as he vigorously reiterated the emphasis placed by his administration on the improvement of the lot of the rural masses in a speech delivered on the occasion of the induction into office of the elected Pangasinan provincial officials.

In impromptu additions to the program, the Chief Executive also administered the oath of office to the elected provincial officials of La Union, who had come to barrio Carmen, Rosales, Pangasinan, for the purpose, and to Julian U. de Vera of Tayug, Pangasinan, as acting member of the Land Tenure Administration. The inducted La Union officials were Gov. Bernardo Gapus and Board Members Jose Solomon and Anselmo Salanga.

A notable feature of the Pangasinan ceremonies was the launching by Sen. Cipriano Primicias, Senate majority floor leader, of President Magsaysay’s candidacy for reelection. “Whether he (Magsaysay) likes it or not,” Primicias said, “he will be our candidate for reelection in 1957, and he will win. If we gave Estrella a 40,000 majority, “we will give the President a majority of 100,000 in 1957.”

Primicias said the President had so endeared himself to the people owing to his efforts in their behalf that they would not be denied his reelection. “He has six more years as President,” the Senate leader said, “whether he likes it or not.”

President Magsaysay in his speech climaxing the induction rites reaffirmed that the basic policy of his administration was to elevate living standards of the majority of the population who lived in the farms and rural areas. He said this policy was being pursued through a program calling for the construction of more irrigation systems, feeder roads, and rural electrification projects and for government aid in furnishing the farmers with the implements of production.

The President, just as he had done earlier this week in Naga City, Camarines Sur, told his listeners to list all possible sources of irrigation in the entire province of Pangasinan and “the government will give you all the money you need to tap them.” He said if a survey should prove that Pangasinan needed P20 million for this program, it would get P20 million.

Pointing out that previous administrations had not appropriated even as little as P20 million annually for all irrigation purposes throughout the entire country, the President said this indifference to the plight of the nation’s largest population group nullified plans made for industrialization and electrification.

“What is the use of a grand power system like Ambuklao,” he asked, “if the farmers whom the system could benefit did not have the money for power? How can we make satisfactory progress towards industrialization if the masses of our people had no purchasing power to buy the products of our industries?” He said the Administration’s efforts to improve earning capacity and living conditions in the barrios were indispensable to the success of any industrialization program. “They should go hand in hand,” he said.

The President also told his listeners he had directed the Bureau of Animal Industry to give “top priority” to the province of Pangasinan in the next phase of “Operation Dispersal,” a program of distributing livestock to farmers for breeding with the offspring to be divided later between the government and the farmers. He said he personally knew that the people of Pangasinan took good care of their work animals and therefore both they and the government would benefit greatly from this program.

Returning to the need for irrigation, the President said that as soon as the Ambuklao project was completed and power began to flow into Pangasinan he would direct that experiments be tried with electrically-powered pump irrigation systems. He said the experiments would determine whether these systems could be operated on a profitable basis.

The President pledged anew that his administration was primarily concerned with the well-being of the small man. He said he has shown the way himself by opening Malacañang to the people. He said he has been impressing upon all government officials from the Cabinet to the lowest levels that they should never consider any citizen, no matter how lowly in life, as beneath their dignity to serve. He said it was this attitude held by previous officials which had driven so many to the Huk movement and raised the number of Huk reserves to 2,500,000 at their peak.

Emphasizing that under his administration he was vigorously pushing this concept of priority service to the humblest and poorest citizens, the President said he did not want men with “one-track” minds, concerned only with personal comfort and glory, in his administration. “I do not care for the old-fashioned and conventional type of officials who are more concerned with personal glory than service,” he said.

Concluding, the President said it would take “a little more time” for the Administration to have fully launched its program of improving barrio conditions and for the people to feel the full impact of these benefits. “The Administration cannot work magic,” he said, “but it is doing its work steadily and conscientiously, and the people will in time reap the fruits of its efforts.

IN the afternoon, the President presided over a 45-minute Cabinet meeting held in barrio Manambong Sur, Bayambang, Pangasinan, witnessed by provincial and municipal officials and thousands of barrio and town people.

The meeting, which was held beneath a temporary shed roofed with coconut palms, was the third out-of-Malacañang Cabinet meeting during this Administration, inspired by its desire to enable high government officials to know the actual needs of the people in the barrios.

The first two barrio Cabinet meetings were held in Naujan, Mindoro Oriental, and at the Ambuklao hydroelectric plant site in Mountain-Province last year.

Addressing the people who witnessed the Cabinet meeting, President Magsaysay said that the Administration had initiated the holding of Cabinet meetings in the field in order that the high government officials could see for themselves the actual needs of the barrios and could act with more dispatch and sympathetic understanding on all requests for the improvement of life in the rural areas.

The President told the people that the Government was subdividing a large portion of the government property in barrio Manambong in order that it could sell the lots to the tenants at minimum cost. He added that more than 200 hectares had already been surveyed and that they would be distributed soon to the tenants.

Addressing directly Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez, the President said: "I want this project implemented and carried out successfully." The President got assurance from Rodriguez that with the speed the Bureau of Lands was now disposing of torrens titles, the prospective landowners would get their land titles during this year.

This announcement of the President aimed at solving one of the social problems of barrio Manambong Sur, was met with spirited applause.

THE President's decision authorizing the remaining garlic in the possession of Ang Su to be bartered with the local variety for planting was ratified by the Cabinet. Secretary Rodriguez reported to the President that he had earlier already issued the authority for such barter.

The President, however, said that Rodriguez should include in his order the provision that the names of the parties with which the garlic would be bartered should be mentioned and made clear in the barter papers, for easier verification afterwards.

The President made the decision to approve the barter after a personal inspection of the garlic stored in the bodega at the Mabuhay Development Company farm, of which Ang Su is the overseer. The President arrived at the bodega, which was on the way to barrio Manambong Sur, at about 12:55 p.m. He asked Ang Su why he had made a contradictory statement regarding where he had earlier bartered part of the garlic. The President pointed out that according to the report on the garlic case, Ang Su allegedly said at one time that the garlic had been bartered in Ilocos Norte and at another time that he had made the barter in Santo Cristo.

Ang Su explained to the President that what he had said and meant was that the garlic came from Ilocos Norte but that the barter had been made in Sto. Cristo. He added that he did not remember the name of the person with whom he had made the barter but that he could easily recognize and identify him if he saw him again.

The President then asked to see some samples of the garlic stored in the bodega. These were found rotting and ill-smelling. The President said he was inclined to authorize the barter because the chief problem was more garlic production. He pointed out that the garlic was deteriorating instead of being put to good use.

The President in the course of his inspection of the farm noted the irrigation pump which was being used to irrigate the land. He also interviewed some of the plantation workers who were not doing anything because of lack of garlic to plant.

AT the Cabinet meeting, the President appointed a committee composed of Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, Health Undersecretary Rafael Tumbokon, and PCAC Chairman Frisco San Juan to fly to Naga City Thursday morning to look into the real cause of the *Watawat ng Lahi* incident.

The President said that in his trip to Naga last Monday, he could not find time to investigate personally the case because of a very tight schedule. He said that the committee would look into the details of the uprising and ordered that it submit its report to him personally upon arrival from Naga City.

The President also appointed a committee to be composed of NEC Chairman Alfredo Montelibano, Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno, and Justice Undersecretary Jesus Barrera to confer immediately with the auditor general with regard to the procedure for the issuance of bonds to carry out important development projects of the government.

The President also approved a request of Secretary Moreno that some public works projects be carried out through administration work. Moreno said that there were not enough private companies to do construction jobs.

The President said that he was giving his approval provided that all materials and supplies to be used in these constructions shall be purchased through public bidding. He also admonished that steps be taken to avoid frauds and graft in connection with the work. In this connection the President emphasized that the construction of one-million-peso road to the Caramoan peninsula in the Bicol region should be started immediately.

The President also approved the request of Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez for an appropriation of P150,000 for rinderpest control and an appropriation of P10,000 for the holding of the World Conference on Abaca in Manila to be held sometime soon.

The meeting started at 2 p.m. and lasted up to 2:45 p.m. The Cabinet met at a small rectangular table with long benches on either side where Cabinet members sat. As there were not enough chairs and in view of the thousands of people who surrounded the meeting eager to watch the proceedings, several Cabinet members had to stand during the whole 45 minutes. The Cabinet proceedings were broadcast over a sound system.

The President left Carmen, Rosales, Pangasinan, at 4 p.m., and landed back in Manila at 4:30 p.m.

January 5.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning received Minister Cao Thai Bao of the Vietnamese legation in Manila, who presented him with a check for US \$14,000 as a contribution of President Ngo Dinh Diem to the fund for sufferers of recent destructive typhoons in the Philippines.

In accepting the check, the President thanked the Vietnamese chief executive on behalf of the Filipino people and assured him, through the minister, that the contribution would go a long way in alleviating the destitute families in typhoon-ravaged areas of the country. Minister Cao was accompanied to Malacañang by Ta Thai Buu, foreign affairs officer, Oscar Arellano of the Jaycees, and Juan C. Orendain of the Asian Good Neighbor Relations Commission.

The President also received Ludwig E. Armerding, local manager of Pficer Corporation, who presented him with 15,000 vials of anti-biotic drugs as his company's contribution to the rural rehabilitation program of the government.

Earlier, the President received Rep. Jose Aldeguer and Domitilo Abordo of Iloilo, who invited him to inaugurate the P6 million Jalao irrigation dam in Pototan and to induct their newly-elected and reelected provincial and municipal officials. The President accepted their invitation and tentatively set his trip to Iloilo for January 12.

The Chief Executive limited himself to very few callers this morning. He held a series of conferences with Acting Executive Secretary Mariano Yenko, Jr., Judge Salvador Esguerra, and Prof. Enrique M. Fernando on various pending matters.

Other callers included Sens. Emmanuel Pelaez and Domocao Alonto, Rep. Godofredo Ramos of Capiz, CEPOC Manager Isaias Fernando, Jose G. Azaola, formerly with the Firestone Rubber Co., and a delegation of U. P. varsitarians from Zambales, headed by Engelberto de Castro, who invited the President to the induction of their new officers to be held at the D & E Restaurant on Saturday.

THE President signed four administrative orders wherein he fired two justices of the peace and one clerk of court, and reprimanded a city councilor, Malacañang announced today. The President fired the following officials:

(1) Gregorio E. Edillo as justice of the peace of Liloan and Pintuyan, Leyte, for allegedly collecting fees beyond what was allowed by Republic Act No. 145 for his services in assisting claimants to benefits under the laws of the United States, administered by the U. S. Veterans Administration.

(2) Porfirio Altres as justice of the peace of Cabucgayan, Leyte, for publicly maintaining illicit relations with a married woman not his wife. He was found guilty of immorality of such a nature as to render him unfit to remain as town magistrate.”

(3) Emiliano Patron as clerk of court of Sulu effective upon receipt of the order.

The President also reprimanded Councilor Pedro Cuevas, Jr., of Basilan City, who had been found guilty of attempted violation of section 18 of the charter of that city.

Malacañang also announced this day the creation of a National Housing Council to advise the President on housing matters.

The President issued Executive Order No. 148, creating the council to be composed of a representative each from the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation, the Home Financing Commission, the National Planning Commission, the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation, and the National Economic Council. The chairman of the council shall be designated by the President.

The President said that it was necessary to coordinate and integrate the various efforts towards the improvement of housing facilities by way of home building and slum clearance not only in the cities but also in the small communities.

IN the afternoon, the President motored out of the Palace to attend a *merienda* with his relatives in Manila. He returned early in the evening.

January 6.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today directed the installation of electric irrigation pumps all over Central Luzon with the view to increasing rice production and attaining self-sufficiency in this staple commodity.

At a breakfast conference with Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno and Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, the President instructed the two officials to get together and formulate plans for the implementation of this new project which would assure a plentiful harvest of palay in the central plains the whole year round.

The President said that if Central Luzon were dotted with irrigation pump units, the country would have no need to import rice. He even saw the possibility of producing a crop of such quantity as would enable this country to export the staple commodity.

At the conference which lasted from 8 to 9:30 a.m., Governor Cuaderno was instructed to look into the financial aspect of the project and the importation of the necessary pumps from abroad. Secretary Moreno was asked to undertake a survey of the central plains to determine suitable locations for the pumps and the number of units that would be required for the purpose.

The President said that the irrigation pumps would be run by cheap electric power from the Ambuklao hydroelectric power plant. He discussed with Moreno the construction of a second unit of the Ambuklao plant at Binga, Mountain Province so that there would be ample supply of electric power to meet the needs of Central and Northern Luzon.

FOLLOWING the conference, the President received callers at his study.

Rear Admiral Glynn R. Donoho, who took over yesterday the command of the U. S. naval base at Subic Zambales, called to pay his respects. Admiral Donoho was accompanied to Malacañang by U. S. Ambassador Homer Ferguson

and Rear Admiral Hugh Goodwin, commander of U. S. naval forces in the Philippines. He replaced Capt. Harry Coffin as commander of the base.

Fred H. Stevens, general manager of a local import company bearing his name, also called to present the President with pictures of the first American flag hoisted on Corregidor in 1898. Stevens said that the flag with only 45 stars on it had been turned over to the Scots temple on Taft Avenue by Sgt. Maj. George Bietsch of the 10th Pennsylvania Volunteers, the first contingent of American troops which landed on Corregidor during the Spanish-American War.

Stevens also informed the President that the flag would be donated to the Philippine Government when the projected museum in Corregidor is established. He was accompanied to Malacañang by Sen. Francisco Delgado. Another caller was Rev. Oral Roberts.

THE President convoked the special meeting of his Cabinet shortly before 11 a.m.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay issued an executive order today elevating the press secretary to the President to Cabinet rank, in response to a petition to that effect by the National Press Club of the Philippines.

1. V. Cruz, present press secretary, thus became the 16th member of the highest advisory body to the President. At 30 he also is the youngest.

The President signed Executive Order No. 155, conferring Cabinet rank upon the press secretary to the President during the special meeting of the Cabinet called by the Chief Executive to take up a few important matters and tackle the backlog on its agenda. Joined by the rest of the Cabinet, the Chief Executive immediately offered his congratulations to Cruz, who was present.

The NPC had unanimously approved at its last national convention held Dec. 30, a resolution urging the President to elevate his press secretary to full Cabinet rank in keeping with what it said was the Magsaysay administration's "esteem for, and confidence in, the press as a medium of information, forum for the discussion of public issues, and crystalizer and mirror of public opinion."

AT the special Cabinet meeting today with President Magsaysay presiding, the Cabinet approved the barter of 20,000 metric ton of "D" sugar with rice from Burma, provided this rice will subsequently be sold by the National Rice and Corn Corporation (NARIC) to the people at the lowest possible cost.

The Cabinet instructed the NARIC to ascertain that the Burma rice to be imported through barter would be of good quality and that the terms of the transaction would be such as to enable the NARIC to sell the rice at the lowest possible prices.

The Cabinet meeting also: (1) changed the date for the convention of provincial governors and city mayors; and (2) directed Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno to study the wisdom and feasibility of converting all highway projects to cement, instead of asphalt.

The International Sugar Council in London, Great Britain, had granted the Philippines a special allocation of 20,000 metric tons of "D" sugar for export to neighboring countries in exchange for rice. The Philippine Government offered to sell this special quota to Japan. Japan accepted the offer on condition that the amount involved in the transaction would immediately be used to purchase rice directly from either Iran or Burma.

The Cabinet rejected Iranian rice on the ground that it was not acceptable both in quality and price. On being assured by the Japanese Government that Burma was an alternative party to the transaction, the Cabinet approved this alternative plan provided that the NARIC gave assurance that it would sell the rice at the lowest possible cost.

The Cabinet also agreed to postpone the convention of provincial governors and city mayors, originally set for January 16, 17, and 18, until January 19, 20, and 21. The reason for the change in schedule was that January 17 had been set as the date for the election of barrio councils throughout the country. It was felt that the provincial governors would want to be in their respective provinces on that date.

The Cabinet also instructed Secretary Moreno to look into the practicability of converting all asphalt highway projects into cement roads, in order to save in the long run on maintenance and repair costs. Although cement roads admittedly would cost more than asphalt, the Cabinet asked Moreno to determine whether the difference in original costs would not be overcome by subsequent savings in maintenance and repair. In the meantime, the Cabinet authorized Moreno to go on with road projects, the asphalt for which already was on hand.

IN the afternoon, the President took steps to hasten the development of home industries in the Philippines. In a conference with Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., the President was informed that agencies of the Department of Education have already organized eight regional home industries centers. These centers will foster development of small industries such as hat weaving, handbag manufacture, embroidery, and other home industries. The President was also informed that colored brochures on native industries have been printed and were being sent abroad, especially to the United States, in order to create foreign interest in the local products.

The President said the plan was for the government to help in the beginning private enterprise in building up these home industries. However, he said that later on the enterprises would be left alone to private individuals to handle. He directed that the NAMARCO, the Department of Commerce and Industry, and the Department of Education get together in coordinating the details for carrying out the full development of the home industries program.

THE President also directed this afternoon the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Constabulary, and the NBI to intensify their work in checking on the sale of imported cigarettes without government revenue stamps on them.

The President was informed that great quantities of these unstamped cigarettes were finding their way into the Philippines, causing revenue losses.

The President directed the government agencies concerned to go after the violators of the internal revenue laws on imported cigarettes and to prosecute them.

IN the evening, the President made a surprise visit to the Manila Railroad Company at the press preview of the two new first class air-conditioned coaches and the de luxe diesel rail motor cars of the MRR at Tutuban Station.

The President, accompanied by MRR General Manager Salvador Villa and MRR Board Chairman Andres O. Hizon, went up the two air-conditioned first class coaches and the four diesel rail motor cars which had been received from Japan the other day. The equipment was manufactured by the Nippon Sharyo in Nagoya and the Tokyu Car Manufacturing Company in Yokohama, respectively.

The new air-conditioned cars are fitted with U. S.-made air-conditioning units from the Safety Car Heating and Lighting Co. of New York. They have a capacity of 48 passengers each with plush seats that can be turned around.

The President was informed that the new diesel rail motor cars were provided with 180 h.p. engines capable of speeds of 95 kms. an hour with 80 passengers each.

The President was impressed by the air-conditioned coaches and the rail motor cars, saying that the railroad now could offer better service to the riding public. He said that with the use of diesel cars the government could save some P2 million a year from fuel and that it was possible the MRR could make money next year.

After inspecting the new coaches, the President went to the regular coaches whose passengers were waiting for the train's departure. The President conversed with many of the passengers some of whom turned out to be old acquaintances and friends.

On leaving the MRR premises, the President said that he was pleased with the improvements introduced by the management. He noted that the waiting rooms were gaily lighted and the floors were clean and there were better accommodations for the comfort of passengers.

Besides the MRR officials, Japanese Mission Chief Toshio Urabe, S. Yamamoto, M. Kobayashi, and Shinzo Tsutsumi of the Japanese manufacturing companies were also present to greet the President.

The President arrived at the railroad station at 5:35 p.m. and left at 6 p.m. He was accompanied by Mrs. Magsaysay, his brother Jesus, and presidential aide, Maj. Jose Estrella.

At 3:30 this afternoon, the President entertained at the Malacañang Park recreation hall more than 300 officers and men of the aircraft carrier *U.S.S. Bennington*, who were being bled for the benefit of the blood bank of the Philippine National Red Cross. The President expressed his gratitude to them for their generosity in donating to the Filipino people blood worth more than P100,000.

The crew was headed by Capt. Paul Foley, commanding officer; Commander J. J. Hilton, executive officer; Commander H. Richard Clark, Chaplain Handren, Lt. Gerry Gebher, Lt. Frank Welling, and Lt. Edward Butren.

Also present were Health Secretary Paulino Garcia and Blood Bank Director Ray Higgins, USO Director Tex Hunter, and USO Assistant Director Dorothy Westbrook.

A group of USO and Philippine National Red Cross entertainers staged native dances for the sailors. They danced the native *Salacut* and *Tinikling* folk dances. A square dance participated in by Filipino girls and sailors from the aircraft carrier was staged and dedicated to the President.

The President greeted each of the crew members. He offered them soft drinks and sandwiches, and stayed with them from 3:30 p.m. to 4:20 p.m.

January 7.—THIS morning the President had a breakfast conference with Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez and Agriculture Undersecretary Jaime Ferrer during which they discussed plans for the establishment of a national slaughterhouse in Polo, Bulacan, and a quarantine station for animals entering the country in Masinloc, Zambales.

AFTER breakfast, the President motored to San Pedro, Laguna, to visit the government settlement project. He was accompanied by Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, Laguna Gov. Dominador Chipeco, Frank E. Moore of the U. S. International Cooperation Administration (ICA), and an aide, Maj. Jose Estrella.

Arriving at 9:30 a.m. at the NARRA settlement in San Pedro, the President was disappointed to find that the farmers in the area were maltreating their work animals. He had originally planned to distribute 11 imported buffaloes, but, finding the farmers maltreating their work animals, he decided to withhold the distribution of the buffaloes. He told Dr. Laureano Marquez, acting director of the Bureau of Animal Industry, to send the animals to other farmers who would take better care of them.

Shown around the settlement by NARRA Acting Manager Raoul Beloso, the President was irked when he found out that some of the settlers utilized the work animals provided them by the government for purposes other than tilling their farms.

At one point during his visit, the President stopped a settler leading a carabao to which was hitched a sled containing a high pile of firewood intended for the market. He told the farmer that if he wanted to engage in the firewood business, he should not use the carabao which had been given him for working his land.

Noticing a swarm of flies hovering over the carabao's back, the President approached and lifted a rope tightly wound around the animal's neck. He found an infected wound under the rope and forthwith gave the farmer a brief but sharp lecture on the proper care of work animals. He also summoned the veterinarian assigned in the settlement and angrily instructed him to exercise closer supervision over the treatment and care of animals in the area.

FROM San Pedro, the President proceeded to the government stock farm in Alabang, where imported cattles of various breeds were being raised for distribution to farmers. He spent about one hour going around the hilly pasture area, watching the grazing cows and inspecting the facilities of the farm.

Manuel Pinto, farm superintendent, who guided the Chief Executive around the area, disclosed that the farm had 195 Murrah buffaloes, 148 of which were cows, 17 bulls, and 30 calves. Pinto said that each of the 148 cows yielded an average of four to six liters of milk a day for the dairy plant of the Bureau of Animal Industry. This helped supply the daily needs of Manila residents, he said.

Directing the farm officials to accelerate the implementation of his "Operations Dispersal" program, the President said: "This is my project for the poor people in the barrios and I do not want it to fail."

THE Chief Executive also inspected the nearby government poultry farm. Pablo Agcanas, the superintendent, showed him huge, modern incubators where hundreds of eggs laid by hens of different breeds were being hatched. Agcanas estimated that the White Leghorns, the New Hampshires, and the Australorps being raised in the farm laid an average of 500 eggs a day, part of which were sold in Manila and neighboring places and the rest hatched to be sold as chicks to private poultry owners.

On the way back to Manila, the Chief Executive dropped in at the Constabulary provincial headquarters in Imus, Cavite, and inquired into the peace and order conditions in the locality. Inspecting the headquarters' stockade, he came upon a civilian prisoner who claimed he had been unjustifiably meted out a life sentence by the provincial court of first instance for the murder of an LP political leader during the 1951 elections despite the fact that the real killers had confessed to the crime and had absolved him of the charge. The prisoner, Mariano Alonzo, 39, from Calauag, Quezon, pointed at another prisoner detained with him at the stockade as one of the perpetrators of the crime.

The other prisoner, Florentino Ingero, promptly admitted to the President that he and two others still at large actually committed the murder and that Alonzo had nothing at all to do with the crime. The President then ordered Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, who was with him on the inspection trip, to send a special investigator from the JAGO to investigate further the case of Alonzo for possible recommendation for executive clemency. He also ordered the early apprehension of the two men whom Ingero claimed had been his companions in the killing so that they might be brought before the courts of justice.

Before leaving the PC headquarters, the President promised Alonzo that he would be given justice if it was true that he did not participate in the commission of the crime. Alonzo told the President that he had been on detention in the stockade for four years pending the investigation and trial of the murder charge.

The President also asked Ingero to help in the apprehension of his companions who, Ingero claimed, were the masterminds of the killing. He told Ingero that he would also consider granting him clemency if it turned out that he had the least participation in the crime and if Ingero would assist the government in the prosecution of his companions.

The Chief Executive returned to Malacañang about 12:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this day created a presidential inter-departmental task force to check on the performance work of the different government field projects and to see to it that the policies of the Administration, especially with regard to the rural improvement, program, are fully

The presidential inter-departmental task force is a mobile body that will be sent by the Chief Executive to various regions of the country to accelerate the implementation of the Administration's policies in its projects. The President said that through this committee he could obtain first hand information on the performance and actual conditions obtaining in the various administration projects. He added that through the recommendations of this committee the government could render more service to the people.

The President appointed Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol as chairman and a representative, preferably the undersecretary, of each department as members.

Among the government project which this task force is expected to inspect on the spot are the NARRA resettlement projects, the EDCOR, irrigation systems, hydroelectric plants, pre-fabricated school-house plants, public works constructions, and other government projects in the field.

The President thought of the creation of this task force after receiving a report of Crisol, who was sent by the Chief Executive last Thursday to look into the causes of the *Watawat ng Lahi* incident in barrio Cabunga, Gainza, Camarines Sur. Crisol was accompanied on the inspection by the director of the rural health unit, Dr. Amadeo Cruz, and by PCAC Chairman Frisco San Juan.

Reporting on his findings, Crisol told the President that the people in Cabunga were suffering from poverty and malnutrition, with an average daily income per family of less than P.50 derived from fishing in the river. Their plight is made worse by the absence of farming due to floods. The leaders of the *Watawat ng Lahi*, Crisol said, believed that the Government would notice their plight if they created violence.

Crisol further reported that 20 sacks of NARIC rice had been distributed to the barrio people and that medicines and medical treatment had been given by the rural health unit. He added that a barrio council had been organized with the combined efforts of the barrio school teacher, the agricultural extension officer, the local rural health officer, and the barrio lieutenant.

The Crisol committee found that the practical solution to ameliorate the lives of the people was to dredge the river which would make 300,000 hectares available for farming and would result in higher family incomes.

Upon receiving the report, the President approved the release of P2,0000 for the payment of the NARIC rice already distributed to the barrio people and for the repair of the partially destroyed school house.

The President also said that he would send a dredger in about three weeks and one irrigation pump to help develop the impoverished area.

The President said that the presidential inter-departmental task force will start its work officially on Monday, when Acting Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, Chairman Crisol, and NARRA Manager Raol Beloso will fly down to the NARRA and the EDCOR settlements to look into the progress of these government projects. The committee will report to the President its recommendations on what further steps should be taken to improve conditions in these resettlements. In this connection, the President said that he was going to place the EDCOR directly under the defense secretary instead of under the chief of staff.

The appointment of Crisol as chairman of this task force was a reiteration of the President's full confidence in the organizational ability of the defense undersecretary, who will serve as the eyes and ears of the President. The organization of this task force is a step taken by the President in his desire to insure the success of the different government projects by keeping a close tab on the progress that they are achieving.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning said he would submit to the Government Survey and Reorganization Commission for study a proposal to create an undersecretary of education for vocational education.

The President's plan aims to revitalize the educational system of the country by giving stress to vocational training. If the plan is carried through, the Department of Education will be the first department to have two undersecretaries.

IN the afternoon, the President stayed in his bedroom and went over pending state papers.

January 8.—AFTER breakfast with his family, the President held a two-hour conference this morning with government officials and discussed with them plans of expanding the cotton industry and ways and means of raising goats on a large scale. Present at the conference were ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo, NDC General Manager Jose H. Panganiban, ICA Chief Harry A. Brenn, and President George Adamson of the Adamson University. The conference lasted from 9 a.m. until past 11 a.m.

President Magsaysay directed Mondoñedo and Panganiban to plant from 10 to 15 thousand hectares of land in Lagao, Cotabato, to cotton. The ACCFA chief said that the FACOMAs had initiated the planting of some 300 hectares to cotton. These showed good production.

The two officials reported that the Philippines imported annually millions of pesos worth of cotton to fill the needs of several textile mills. The National Development Company alone, which has some 20,000 spindles, uses 7,500 tons every year, worth around P5 million.

The President was informed that Lagao was an ideal place for cotton planting and that if the target area could be fully planted and the crop harvested, that would mean millions of dollar saved for the country. The project will also mean the employment of thousands of laborers and the raising of the standard of living of the people.

To prevent the occurrence of pest infestation and to insure the harvest of the cotton, the President directed that technical men together with their equipment and necessary chemicals be stationed in the plantation area. Col. Brenn will make available technicians of his office to assist in this project.

The President said that the government would start a large goat farm in Tawi-Tawi to be stocked with 50,000 goats. Later, he added, a tannery and a creamery would be established to utilize to full advantage the products of the farm. The goat hide will be treated and prepared for use as upper-leather of shoes, which at present is also being imported. Goat milk will fill a great deficiency in the country's nutritional needs. It can also be manufactured into butter and cheese.

The President said that he had planned to start this project when he was still defense secretary but could not carry it out when he resigned. Now, he said, he was going to make that plan a reality. He said he had told Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao to have surrendered Huks work on the goat farm.

In the afternoon, the President worked on state papers.

January 9.—AT a breakfast conference this morning, the President discussed with Maestro Federico Elizalde the proposed establishment of the national theatre at the corner of Taft Avenue and Isaac Peral. Designed for all artistic exhibitions, the national theater is envisioned to have a seating capacity of from 15,000 to 20,000. The President said that he will create a committee to study ways and means of establishing the theater.

THE President led the nation today in mourning the death of Justice Luis P. Torres. In expressing grief over the death of the former jurist, the President said:

“The country has suffered a truly great loss in the death of Justice Luis P. Torres.

“I have known Mr. Torres as a man of the highest integrity in his actuations, both as a public official and as a private citizen. He served his country brilliantly, unselfishly, and devotedly until his last days, discharging his duties with missionary zeal. He has bequeathed to his country the legacy of ideal public service.

“I join the nation in paying tribute to Mr. Torres and praying for his eternal repose.”

The President in a conference this morning with Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff, ordered the sending of one more BCT to Cavite to “destroy” all the bandits there.

After conferring with Gen. Vargas, the President received Democratic Party leaders who informed him that the national executive committee of their party had ratified the NP-DP integration. They told the President that no opposition was registered against the ratification by any provincial or municipal chapter of the DP.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay received many callers this morning, among whom were former President and Mrs. Sergio Osmeña and Dr. Elpidio Valencia, son-in-law of the former President.

The President received four large delegations from Manila, Rizal, Nueva Ecija, and Macabebe, Pampanga. The delegation from Manila was composed of members of the *Kapisanang Labi ng Digma* who sought the President’s help in buying the lot they are presently occupying from the Manila Railroad Company. Col. Salvador Villa, MRR general manager, who was present, gave his assurance to the President that the lot will be sold to the occupants. The lot is located in Tondo.

About 1,000 people from the towns of Guimba, Bongabong, Zaragoza, Peñaranda, Gabaldon, Nampicuan, and Cabanatuan City in Nueva Ecija requested aid from the President for the early expropriation of Hacienda Triala in Guimba and for the construction of irrigation systems and artesian wells. The President ordered Land Tenure Commissioner Manuel Castañeda and the Department of Public Works and Communications to speed up the expropriation of landed estates and the construction of irrigation systems and artesian wells in Nueva Ecija.

The Nueva Ecija delegation was headed by Rep. Celestino Juan, Gov. Amado Aleta, Board Members Vivencio Ruiz and Emilio Gaduco, Mayors Virgilio Calica of Guimba, Antonio Vilar of Bongabong, Sofronio Geronimo of Peñaranda, Emilio Morales of Gabaldon, Benjamin Marquez of Nampicuan, and the NP local chapter president, Dr. Aniceto Belmonte of Zaragoza.

Another large delegation from Macabebe, Pampanga, asked the President’s disapproval of the move to create a new municipality in Macabebe. The Chief Executive assured the delegation, accompanied by Rep. Diosdado Macapagal, that he would disapprove the proposed creation of the new town.

The delegation from Morong, Rizal, was composed of strikers in the Raymundo Transportation Company. They complained to the President that while they were on strike, the management leased the transportation company and the new owner refused to employ the strikers and hired new ones. The President told PCAC Chairman Frisco San Juan, who accompanied the group, to refer the case to Malacañang Technical Adviser Judge Roman Cruz for study and investigation.

The President also received David Owen, executive chairman of the United Nations Assistance Board, who paid a courtesy call. Owen was accompanied by Eric E. Ward, local representative of the UN Assistance Board.

Members of the Home Industries Association also called on the President and requested him to ban the importation of toys and to arrange a loan for them from either the PNB or the RFC. The President assured them of his help and said that he would recommend to Congress the passage of the apprenticeship bill in order to help home industries. A buntal hat was presented to the President by the association delegation which was headed by Hilarion Henares, president.

Other callers of the President included Sen. Quintin Paredes and Domacao Alonto; Health Secretary Paulino Garcia; Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno; Reps. Jose Nuguid of Bataan, Pedro Trono of Iloilo, Guillermo Sanchez of Agusan, Jose Puey of Iolilo, and Felix Garduque of Cagayan; Govs. Juan Triviño of Camarines Sur, Esmeraldo Eco of Camarines Norte, and Felixberto Dagani of Agusan; and former Govs. Dominador Mangubat of Cavite,

Felipe Azcuña of Zamboanga del Norte, and Patricio Fernandez of Palawan. Bureau of Internal Revenue Collector Silverio Blaquera also saw the President.

A SUBSTANTIAL increase of P24 million in the gross collections of the Bureau of Internal Revenue from July to December 1955, over the same period of 1954, was reported to the President by BIR Collector Silverio Blaquera.

In a tabulated report to the President, Collector Blaquera informed the President that from July to December 1954 a total of P219,688,536.11 gross collections was realized by the BIR while P244,176,947.62 was collected from July to December 1955, marking an increase of P24,488,411.51.

Blaquera told the President that P16 million out of the total increase for the six-month period accrued to the National Government. The BIR collector also informed the President that 431 deserving employees of the BIR were given chain promotions out of the 108 new positions given to the BIR by Congress. New employees were taken in to fill the vacated items of the promoted employees.

Blaquera saw the President with Deputy Collector Jose Arañas and Bernardo Carpio, director of the Mindanao regional office. The President congratulated the BIR officials and told them to “keep up the good work.”

PRESIDENT Magsaysay said today the Filipino people had reason to be “happy” over the assurances of visiting top-ranking U. S. security officials that the United States will come to the defense of the Philippines in the event of aggression.

The President made this statement at a luncheon which he and Mrs. Magsaysay offered for visiting U. S Secretary of the Air Force Donald Quarles and Mrs. Quarles. The luncheon was held at Malacañang. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, page 89, for the full text of the President’s remarks.)

Responding to the President’s remarks, Secretary Quarles said that the United States was interested in maintaining a “mutual defense position” with the Philippines. He reiterated that his government was determined to comply with its commitments in this regard.

THE President accepted today the resignation of the appointive members of the CB Monetary Board, Messrs. Antonio de las Alas, Leonides S. Virata, and Jose Leido. The President’s action is not to be construed as a reflection on the honesty and the integrity of the appointive members.

To succeed them, the President appointed Dean Vicente Sinco, Jaime Velasquez, and Amando Dalisay.

IN the afternoon, the President held his weekly *merienda* press conference at the Palace dining room. The press conference was brief as the President decided to take the newsmen on a ride to the Manila Railroad Company’s Tutuban Station.

At the MRR, the President was met by Col. Salvador T. Villa, and Col. Eleuterio de Leon.

The President wanted to see the first class “sleeperette” coach which had recently arrived from Japan. However, a delay in the switching of the engine to a coach intended for the presidential party forced the President to cancel his planned ride to the MRR mechanical shed in Caloocan, Rizal. The President inspected the new coaches and talked to MRR passengers.

The President told the newsmen that he was appointing Fortunato de Leon as acting executive secretary and that he had extended new appointments of interim status to Eulogio Balao as secretary of national defense and Juan de G. Rodriguez as secretary of agriculture and natural resources. The last two had been holding their portfolios in acting capacity.

With the appointment of Fortunato de Leon as executive secretary, Mr. Yenke, who has been serving in that position for a few months, was automatically reverted to his permanent position as first assistant executive secretary.

The new executive secretary, who hails from Orion, Bataan, was drafted into the service at Malacañang, directly under the President, on April 12, 1955. A lawyer by profession, Secretary de Leon had been with the editorial staff of the *Manila Daily Bulletin* for five years and served as a congressman representing Bataan from 1931 to 1934.

Another appointment made by Malacañang this day was that of Edmundo Lucero as member of the Board of Examiners for Architects. Lucero's term has been extended.

THE President this evening cancelled his projected trip today to Iligan City to inaugurate the NASSCO steel mills because of important official matters that came up suddenly. He will be represented by Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia at the Ceremony at Iligan City tomorrow.

January 10.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay gave the go-signal for the activation of six engineer combat battalions to help push through his rural development program and at the same time assists in the maintenance of peace and order, in the course of a conference this morning with Col. Antonio Chanco, chief of the AFP corps of engineers. He said that the new battalions would be useful in putting up roads and bridges in the hinterlands, particularly in areas where dissidents were still active.

The Chief Executive received a few callers at his study. Officers of the Association of Filipino Traders presented him with a petition against the reduction by the Central Bank of import quota allocations for Filipino merchants.

Santiago Yap, association president who acted as spokesman, informed the President that import quota reductions were being made on Filipino and alien merchants in equal proportions, resulting in many instances in the imminent extinction of small Filipino traders.

To enable Filipinos to obtain an increasing participation in the national trade, Yap requested that quota reductions be applied on them in smaller percentage. The President referred the petition to the Central Bank for comment and recommendation.

A non-partisan delegation composed of political leaders from Northern Luzon invited the President to a reception and ball to be held at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel on January 27 as a token of their appreciation for the appointment of Eulogio Balao as secretary of national defense.

Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason also called to consult the President on routine matters in his department.

Other callers this morning included Sens. Pacita Madrigal-Gonzalez and Francisco Rodrigo, Govs. Amado Aleta of Nueva Ecija and Alejo Santos of Bulacan, Rep. Pedro Lopez of Cebu, CB Governor Miguel Cuaderno, and former Sen. Tomas Cabili.

THE President today directed ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondeñedo:

- (1) To make immediately available the sum of P3 million to start the government's cotton growing project in Mindanao and in other parts of the country and
- (2) To organize cooperatives in the coconut regions in order to stabilize the price of copra and insure that the profits of marketing would be retained by the producers.

Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno gave assurances that there would be sufficient funds to underwrite the cotton production project and the organization cooperatives in the coconut region.

The President made these directives upon receiving the ACCFA annual report for the calendar year 1955 which showed that as of last December 31, the ACCFA had organized and assisted a total of 319 farmers' cooperatives marketing associations with a combined authorized capital of P18,171,215.45 of which P2,958,820.07 was paid up. These FACOMAs represented 183,023 farmers in 7,759 barrios, in 350 municipalities of 42 provinces throughout the Philippines.

The President's instructions to Mondeñedo to make available P3 million for the cotton growing project was a follow-through of the conference held last Sunday when the project to plant cotton from 10,000 to 15,000 hectares of land in Lagao, Cotabato, was launched. The President said that aside from the principal cotton growing center in Mindanao, the ACCFA should also plant cotton in Pangasinan and in the Ilocos region.

The President today issued Proclamation No. 242, declaring the period from February 22 to 28, inclusive, of every year as traffic safety week and March 1 of every year as safe driving day.

In the proclamation, the President said that the loss of life, limb, and property resulting from traffic accidents has reached appalling proportions. He said it was the concern of the government to solve the critical traffic situation "with the view to minimizing, if not totally eliminating, traffic accidents and the resultant loss of life, limb, and property."

The President said that to achieve this aim, it was necessary for the National Traffic Commission to "conduct an efficacious educational campaign by the use of leaflets, posters, banners, billboards, signboards, mass media, the radio, and other appropriate means to arouse traffic-safety consciousness and impel the observance of traffic and road courtesy rules and regulations."

The NTC was designated to take charge of all arrangements and activities for the fitting celebration throughout the Philippines of traffic safety week and safe driving day. It was authorized to solicit donations in cash or in kind for carrying out the aims of the proclamation.

January 11.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today ordered Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol to send a Navy ship to Babuyan Claro Island to pick up inhabitants who might wish to resettle at the Perado EDCOR project in Isabela.

The President expressed the hope that all inhabitants of Babuyan Claro would abandon the desolate island and settle in the EDCOR farm. The LST will take the settlers directly to the Cagayan Valley for immediate transfer to the project site.

At the same time, the President instructed that Fidel Cruz, sanitary health inspector assigned to Babuyan Claro, be treated with leniency in connection with the hoax regarding alleged killers loose on the island. The President pointed out that the hoax had produced beneficial results in that, it has called attention to the inhabitants of Babuyan Claro.

THE President limited himself to a few callers this morning in view of the Cabinet meeting scheduled at 10 a.m.

Ernesto del Rosario, editor of the *Manila Chronicle* and president of the local chapter of the International Editors Institute, invited the Chief Executive to address the forthcoming first Asian conference of the IEI in Tokyo, Japan.

A large delegation of laborers from the chromite mines of Benguet Consolidated in Masinloc, Zambales, also called to seek protection from their union leaders who allegedly threatened them with bodily harm if they did not join the union's projected strike next week. With Ricardo Bisquerra as spokesman, the group informed the President that the majority of the union members did not want to stage the strike.

The President assured the delegation composed of workers from different provinces that the government would give them all the protection they needed.

Other callers this morning included Col. Nicanor Jimenez, chairman of the Philippine panel of the SEATO committee to counteract subversion, who paid his respects before enplaning for Bangkok, Thailand; Rep. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz; and Gov. Juan F. Triviño of Camarines Sur.

The President convoked the regular weekly meeting of his Cabinet at 10:30 a.m.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay and the Cabinet at their meeting today made effective a Cabinet decision allowing the unloading and withdrawal from customs custody of Virginia leaf tobacco shipments, not to exceed a total of 8,100,000 pounds, now deposited in bonded warehouses in Manila.

The authority to unload the Virginia leaf tobacco was given when the President and the Cabinet were informed that performance bonds had already been accomplished by local tobacco manufacturers to assure that they would purchase the next entire production of local Virginia leaf tobacco. Deficiency of Virginia leaf tobacco had been certified to by the ACCFA administrator in his letter to the President dated December 19, 1955, and importation was authorized by the President and the Cabinet by virtue of Republic Act No. 1194.

The withdrawal of the tobacco from the bonded warehouses is subject to the payment of duties, taxes, and other lawful charges collectible under the laws in force at the time of withdrawal from customs custody.

The Cabinet was informed that the government would collect in tariff duties some P9,500,000 from the importation of Virginia leaf tobacco.

The President and the Cabinet reiterated that any barter with the Japanese Government of Philippine sugar should be in exchange for Burmese rice and not for Iranian rice. This matter was taken up in connection with the question of allowing the importation of rice from various neighboring countries in exchange for 20,000 metric tons of sugar which the International Sugar Council had specially allotted to the Philippines in 1955.

The President and the Cabinet also made preliminary studies on how to improve the living conditions of the people in the Babuyan Islands group. The President showed concern over how to improve the health and living conditions of the people in that group.

During the Cabinet meeting, Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia reported to the President on the results of his inauguration and inspection of the NASSCO steel mill in Iligan City. Garcia was sent by the President to represent the latter at the ceremonies.

Garcia told the President that in his speech he had explained the economic policy of the President to establish as many industries as possible so that graduates from vocational schools could easily find work to apply their knowledge and thus contribute to the industrialization of the country.

The President congratulated the Vice-President for his speech in Iligan City.

IN the afternoon, the President receives a large delegation from Cebu headed by Gov. Jose Briones and Cebu City Mayor Sergio Osmeña, Jr.

IN the evening, President Magsaysay directed Customs Commissioner Manuel P. Manahan to rebid the Cebu arrastre service.

January 12.—BEFORE enplaning for Iloilo City this morning, the President had breakfast with University of Michigan professors handling a public administration course in the University of the Philippines. The affair was purely social.

His guests included Dr. Charles Hatcher, president of the University of Michigan; Dr. Charles Kennedy, member of the university's board of regents; and Professors Theodoro Drews and George Peck, training program coordinator and liaison officer, respectively.

Also present were Sen. Jose P. Laurel, U. S. Ambassador Homer Ferguson, and U. P. President Vidal A. Tan.

The President was informed that the four-year contract between the professors and the U. S. International Cooperation Administration, which sponsored the training program, would terminate at the end of the present school term. He was pleased to learn that a "reasonable" number of students are taking the public administration course, and expressed optimism that Filipino graduates in the course would succeed in teaching the subject.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay flew to Iloilo City this morning to induct Mariano B. Peñaflorida whom he supported in the last gubernatorial elections in Iloilo.

Accompanied by Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno, Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, and NEC Chairman Alfredo Montelibano, the President took off from the Nichols Air Base at 9 a.m. With him too were Sens. Fernando Lopez, Ruperto Kangleon, and Lorenzo Sumulong; Rep. Jose Roy of Tarlac; and two presidential aides, Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo and Maj. Jose Estrella.

The presidential party landed at the Mandurriao airport in Iloilo City at 11 a.m., where a big crowd of Iloilo residents and officials headed by Peñaflorida awaited them.

The President stopped at the Jaro Cathedral for a Te Deum service. Then he motored to Jaluar to inaugurate a P7-million irrigation project and the Moroboro suspension bridge.

After lunch, right on the Jaluar dam, the President motored to Pototan, Gov. Peñaflorida's hometown, where he inducted Peñaflorida and Jose Colmenares, provincial board member, at the town kiosk.

Mobbed by admirers, the President had to stop to greet the people along the way, at Sta. Barbara, Janiuy, Cabatuan, and Pavia. Large crowds stopped the President's car at each town.

In an extemporaneous speech delivered at the town plaza of Pototan after the induction ceremony, the President told a large crowd that he will ask Congress P100 million to construct irrigation systems throughout the country and a revitalized legislative program to boost his rural development plans.

He said public works officials will be required to "triple" the speed of their construction work to finish all the projects envisioned for the benefit of the rural population. He indicated that he will stress in his next state-of-the-nation address to Congress, the problems of farmers, workers, and the common man.

"We do not need laws and more laws," the President said in stressing his legislative program.

"We have already many laws that even lawyers do not know which are the correct ones. We need to solve the problems of farmers and workers to ameliorate living conditions in the rural areas," the President pointed out.

He reiterated his administration's objective of solving problems at the grassroots, which he called the "backbone of the nation and the hope of the fatherland."

Praising Peñaflorida's "devotion to public service," the President said: "It was easy for me to select my candidate for governor of this province at the last elections."

The President authorized the release of P200,000 out of P400,000 authorized for feeder roads construction in Iloilo to live up to his pledge to improve the locality which gave him the biggest majority outside Manila—114,000 votes at the last presidential elections.

He pledged more help to the province, saying: "You are my masters; I am your servant."

The President also laid the cornerstone for the Suague irrigation project in Mina-Tolarucan in Pototan and the Tomas Confesor memorial library at Cabatuan.

He had *merienda* at Peñaflorida's residence in Pototan and, after several stops in towns en route, took off from the Mandurriao airport at 6:10 p.m. He arrived at the Nichols Air Base at 8:15 p.m.

ACTING Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon this morning administered the oath of office to Dean Vicente Sinco as a member of the Monetary Board of the Central Bank.

Present during the induction ceremony which was held at Malacañang were Prof. Enrique M. Fernando and R. Marino Corpus, director of CB loans and credit department.

Dean Sinco is the dean of the College of Law, University of the Philippines. His new post is not incompatible with his duties at the State University.

January 13.—THIS morning, the President received few callers. He conferred with Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno and instructed him to assign R. Marino Corpus immediately to the import-export department of the bank to take charge of the licensing of exports.

The President also received the members of the Philippine delegation to the SEATO military conference in Melbourne, Australia. He gave the members of the delegation final instructions. Members of the delegation are Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Pelagio A. Cruz, Air Force commanding general; Commodore Jose M. Francisco, Navy flag officer in command; and Cols. Dionisio Ojeda, Roman Gavino, and Ignacio Capili of the Army.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay said today that he had rejected the offer of the U. S. Commodity Surplus Administration to sell to the Philippines 15 million pounds of Virginia tobacco. He said that locally produced Virginia tobacco, together with the 8,100,000 pounds of imported tobacco approved by the Cabinet to be unloaded, was sufficient to meet local needs.

The offer was made through the Department of Foreign Affairs about five months ago. The offer made was payable in 30 years and the proceeds from the sale could be used in the economic development of the country.

ABOUT 2:15 in the afternoon, the President motored to the San Lazaro Hospital compound to see the progress on the construction of the North General Hospital building, being built within the compound.

Arriving at the hospital about 2:30 p.m., the President immediately proceeded to the NGH building under construction. He was taken around the building by Carlos Garcia, inspector of the Bureau of Public Works, and Francisco Nicolas and Jose Rosales, building contractors.

The President was later joined by Health Secretary Paulino Garcia, Health Undersecretary Rafael Tombokon, and Hospitals Director Tranquilino Elicano, who accompanied him around the wards of the San Lazaro Hospital.

President Magsaysay directed Health Secretary Garcia to establish a socio-medical service unit in each government hospital all over the country to process and give aid to indigent patients after seeing and talking to indigent patients at the San Lazaro Hospital. The patients and the parents of the many infant patients told the President about their poor financial condition. Almost all of them asked for money for badly needed medicine, which the hospital cannot supply.

The socio-medical service will be managed by one representative each from the Bureau of Hospitals, the Social Welfare Administration, and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office where the money will come from.

The Chief Executive told the Department of Health authorities to determine the amount of money needed to finance medical aid for the needy patients. Most of the babies seen by the President were suffering from malnutrition.

First patient who caught the attention of the President was a 13-year old boy suffering from tetanus. The President instructed the doctors at the hospital to do the best for the boy who was already in the lockjaw stage. The boy, Gavino Torribio from Sta. Cruz, Cavite, was accompanied by his mother from the province to the hospital

From the ward where the boy was taken for treatment, the President visited some other wards which housed tetanus patients and babies suffering from malnutrition.

The President through his aide, Maj. Pat Garcia gave financial assistance to several deserving patients.

On the way back to Malacañang about 4 p.m., the President met at San Rafael Street, a delegation from the barrios of Minalin, Pampanga, which wanted to see him. The President got off his car and talked to the delegation.

Members of the delegation asked the President for artesian wells, pre-fab schoolhouses, and the immediate appointment of commissioners of the Agricultural Tenancy Commission. The President approved all the requests, endorsing them in writing to NWSA General Manager Susano Negado and Col. Antonio Chanco of the AFP engineer corps. He assured the delegation, headed by Antonio Buag, that he would appoint the commissioners soon.

MALACAÑANG this day released pertinent information for the guidance of the people in connection with the election of the members of the barrio councils to be held on Tuesday, January 17, 1956. The barrio council program was created by Republic Act No. 1408.

The following points will be observed in connection with the election of the barrio council members:

(1) *Who are to be elected.*—One barrio lieutenant, one councilman for livelihood, one councilman for education, one councilman for health, find such number of vice-barrio lieutenants as there are sitios within the barrio. In barrios where there are no sitios, one barrio vice-lieutenant for every two hundred inhabitants. A barrio vice-lieutenant must be a resident of the sitio.

(2) *Who are qualified to vote.*—Every head of family residing in the barrio for at least six months prior to the election, twenty-one years of age or over. (Head of family may refer to a husband, a widow, uncle or aunt, or an older brother or sister, who is the actual head of a family.)

(3) *Officer in charge of election.*—The councilor assigned to the barrio shall take charge of the election. He shall appoint the three inspectors and the poll clerk and their substitutes. These inspectors and poll clerk constitute the board of election inspectors. They may meet as many times as necessary before the date of the election for the purpose of preparing the list of voters.

(4) *Requisite number of voters.*—At least one third of all qualified voters (heads of families) in the barrio must be present during the election.

(5) *Manner of voting.*—Voting may be done either openly or by secret ballot, as one-half of the voters present may decide.

(6) The result of the election shall be announced by the board of election inspectors publicly at the polling place immediately upon the termination of the counting of the votes, furnishing certified copies of the result of the election, each to the Municipal Council through the municipal councilor, to the barrio treasurer, and to the poll clerk.

January 14.—ABOUT 5:15 this morning, the President took off from the Nichols Air Base and flew to Mindanao to see the progress of the cotton plantation in Lagao, Cotabato, which he had chosen as the experimental farm for his expanded cotton production program. He landed at the Del Monte Airport at 8:15 a.m.

The President was accompanied by Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol; Col. Osmundo Mondoñedo, ACCFA administrator; Assistant Press Secretary Guillermo V. Sison; and Maj. Pat Garcia, presidential aide.

The presidential party was met by Col. Simplicio Rivera, 4th MA chief of staff; Lt. Cols. Manuel Mondoc and Aristoteles Olayvar; C. C. Crawford, manager of the Philippine Packing Corporation in Del Monte; and A. J. Ford. The President had his breakfast at the Del Monte Club, where he exchanged views with Army officers on the general peace and order situation and the production of coffee in the area.

President Magsaysay made the surprise airplane trip to Mindanao to inspect personally the area to be planted to cotton on a large scale and to find for himself the problems of settlers in that area.

In the course of the President's inspection trip which took him to Del Monte, Bukidnon, and the towns of General Santos and Lagao in Cotabato, the President directed Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, who is the chairman of the presidential inter-departmental task force created to check on the performance of different government projects:

- (a) To conduct a thorough investigation of the reported high prices of rice in Bukidnon and make arrangements with the NARIC and the FACOMA to make available cheap rice to the people;
- (b) To investigate further the recent incident between PC soldiers and young Moro traders;
- (c) To require Brig. Gen. Patricio Borromeo, 4th MA commanding general, to explain why the transportation vehicles in the area were not well equipped with tires and sufficient gas for proper service;
- (d) To send the irrigation engineer of Cotabato to Malacañang, together with the plans for all the irrigation systems in the province, so that they could be surveyed immediately; and
- (e) To have five deep wells and 15 Fetcher wells dug immediately in the towns of General Santos and Lagao for the needs of the settlers.

In his conference with ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo and the NARRA settlers and FACOMA farmers in General Santos and Lagao, the President found out that an inequitable contract existed between the National Development Company and the landowners for planting cotton and that this contract should be changed, and that the government's plan of engaging on large scale cotton planting in the area was feasible. The President also discovered that the RFC had not implemented the government's program of encouraging coffee production, to the detriment of coffee planters.

The President was displeased to know that up to the present time his program to accelerate the production of coffee through the RFC had not been implemented. He was informed that the government imported P15 million worth of coffee every year and that this would have been minimized and dollars saved had his order been implemented. He said he would ask RFC officials to explain.

He also learned that the price of rice was exorbitant in spite of the availability of stocks in the NARIC and the FACOMA. He forthwith ordered a report on this matter and on the steps to be taken to remedy the situation.

He also said that he was not satisfied with the result of the previous investigation of the incident between PC soldiers and young Moro traders who had been victimized.

At 10:30 a.m., the presidential party took off from the Del Monte Airport and landed at the General Santos airstrip at 11:46 a.m. The President boarded on open 6 x 6 truck and proceeded directly to the cotton plantation in Lagao. The truck stopped in the middle of the road owing to lack of gasoline and the poor condition of its tires. The President got mad at this inefficiency of servicing Army vehicles and said that the matter should be looked into. He pointed out this situation might have produced tragic results had it happened during combat with bandits, with soldiers on board the truck.

Traveling over muddy roads which were full of holes, the President finally arrived at the cotton plantation. He alighted from the truck and inspected the cotton plantation which he found to be luxuriantly growing with flowers. The settlers crowded about him and explained to him their problems.

An old settler named Brigido Geronimo told the President that he owned 10 hectares which he was cultivating to cotton under contract with the NDC. Geronimo said that after the harvest he got only P10 per hectare as his share. The President suggested that the contract should be changed in such a way that after the tenant had paid his debts to the NDC, the remaining amount should be given to the landowner as his profit in order that he could improve his living.

The President was informed that last year 190 tons of cotton had been harvested in the area. The landowners were confident that this year's crop would prove more satisfactory. The President was also informed that for the present year 350 hectares had been planted by the FACOMA and 100 hectares by NDC tenants.

It was agreed among the farmers that in the future when large scale cotton production will be started, they will plant cotton and peanuts alternately in order to enlarge their incomes.

The farmers also discussed with the President some of their problems such as the proper variety of cotton to be planted, the use of fertilizers and irrigation, and the construction of roads. The President announced that he was releasing P30,000 for the construction of the Lagao-Dadiangas road.

The President told the settlers that he wanted to be sure first that they would succeed in their production before he would release the sum of P3 million for large scale production.

The President conferred with the settlers from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the midst of their cotton crops. Each farmer participated in the discussion and brought his problems and experiences to the President's attention.

FROM the cotton plantation, the President proceeded to the General Santos airport and at 2:37 took off aboard the *Pagasa*. The presidential party had their lunch of salmon, corned beef, and biscuits aboard the plane. They arrived in Manila at 6:15 p.m.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today signed Executive Order No. 157, creating a committee to choose a parcel of vacant government land in Manila as a suitable site for the national theater and to prepare an appropriate architectural design or plan for it.

The national theater will be for music, drama, and other forms of theatrical exhibitions for art and culture. With Federico Elizalde as chairman, the members of the committee are Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno, Director of Planning Anselmo T. Alquinto, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Raul S. Manglapus, National Museum Director Eduardo Quisumbing Juan Nakpil, Eugenio Puyat, and Rev. Fr. James R. Reuter of the Ateneo de Manila.

The committee was authorized by the President to determine the type of building that will be constructed as the national theater. The Chief Executive also called upon competent and civic-minded persons within or outside the government for assistance in the preparation of the architectural design and plan of the proposed building. He said that, if necessary, the committee may conduct an open competition for the selection of the most appropriate design or plan to be adopted.

The committee was required by the President to submit its report and recommendations as soon as possible. The executive order was signed by the President before leaving this morning for Mindanao.

THE strike at the NASSCO shipyard in Mariveles, Bataan, has been settled by the NASSCO board of directors sent by President Magsaysay to look into the demand of the strikers, Malacañang announced today.

The President had ordered the board to go to Mariveles and settle the strike by offering a just solution to the strike. After a conference with the strikers, the board decided to give them their overtime pay dating back to the time of the construction of the shipyard in 1950. Part of the overtime pay will be given to the Mariveles NASSCO laborers on or before March 1 this year.

Board Chairman Ulpiano Sarmiento and Member Maximo Calalang appealed to the strikers at the conference to consider the financial difficulties of the NASSCO which has never been given any operating capital and yet maintains a payroll of P300,000 a month. NASSCO General Manager Bernardo Abrera; Board Members Eligio Herrera, Teofilo Reyes, Jr., Hilarion Henares, Jr., and Jose A. Dorado; and Board Secretary Luis J. Nepomuceno were also at the conference with the strikers.

January 15.—ON his return from an early mass at the Malacañang chapel, the President received Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason and Acting Presiding Judge Guillermo Santos of the Court of Agrarian Relations. They discussed the backlog of cases which have piled up in the CAR.

Secretary Tuason recommended the completion of the membership of the court in order that it could function with dispatch on the cases it had received from various tenants. The President said he will announce shortly the four other members of the tribunal to complete its membership.

Secretary Tuason also reported to the President on his trip to Mindoro yesterday, where he inaugurated the new Bureau of Prisons penal colony in that province.

AFTER receiving Secretary Tuason and Judge Santos, the President conferred with Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol on the reported Communist plot to sabotage the Administration's rural development program.

President Magsaysay directed Undersecretary Crisol to be constantly on alert to thwart a Communist plot to sabotage the Administration's rural development program. At the same time the President instructed Crisol, as chairman of the presidential inter-departmental task force, to implement vigorously the presidential order of keeping a continuous check on the performance of government rural improvement projects in order to insure their success.

The President issued these directives following a revelation yesterday by military intelligence authorities of a Communist plot to sabotage the rural development program and cripple the national economy through infiltration and eventual control of labor and peasant organizations.

In his directive, the Chief Executive told Crisol to report regularly to the Cabinet meeting every Wednesday on the progress of the various rural development projects of the Administration, scattered in different parts of the country. The President said that he would like Crisol to inform the Cabinet of the actual problems and road-blocks that stood in the way of the early and successful completion of those projects. He added that he would like to know if there was any red tape slowing the pace of the work so that this red tape could be done away with.

The Chief Executive said it was necessary that the Administration's rural development projects, launched on a country-wide scale, should succeed because the people had so much faith in them and they were cooperating wholeheartedly in their successful prosecution. He added that he would not allow any factor, much less sabotage, to foil the success of the program being worked out for the uplift of the common people.

Undersecretary Crisol will be the "eyes and ears" of the President in insuring the success of the Administration's rural development program. His check-up activities will take him frog-leaping from one part of the country to another, performing his follow-through tasks unannounced. He will be assisted during his inspection tours probably by the undersecretary of the department directly concerned with the project or by the head official in charge. After each trip Crisol will report his findings directly to the President and the Cabinet.

Crisol said today that he had been aware of this Huk plot some months ago. As a matter of fact, he said, he had issued a statement to the press during his stay in Washington, D. C. last November, warning of this Communist design to sabotage the rural development program of the Administration.

Malacañang said that Crisol, because of his background and training when he was in the Army, was in the best position to help the President plug any Huk sabotage activity and to see to it that the rural projects were successfully carried out. Only yesterday the President took Crisol with him on a surprise inspection to Bukidnon and Cotabato to look into the progress of government rural projects in that area.

BEFORE having lunch with his family at the Palace, the President motored around the Manila with his aide, Maj. Pat Garcia. After a brief rest in the afternoon, the President worked on pending papers which kept him busy until evening.

January 16.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning received members of the Philippine Chamber of Industries and the different chambers of commerce in the Philippines who pledged their cooperation with the Administration in keeping prices of goods as low as possible.

The Philippine Chamber of Industries, through its president, Roberto Villanueva, Jr., pledged that they would not increase prices of their products while Cesar Lorenzo, president of the CCP, spoke on behalf of the heads of the various chambers of commerce in the country and assured the Chief Executive that they would cooperate with the Administration in keeping prices as low as possible.

National Economic Council Chairman Alfredo Montelibano, who accompanied both delegations, and Villanueva told the President they would release a list of goods and their corresponding prices as fixed through the newspapers for the guidance of the public. Montelibano explained to the President that there actually was a very negligible increase in the prices of goods.

The CCP also submitted a petition to the President requesting that the controversial interpretation of the 17 per cent exchange tax be referred to the Department of Justice for decision. The President sent the petition to Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason for study and recommendation.

During the call of the members of the PCI, who came first, Leopoldo Rovira, Jr., vice-president of the PEMCO, presented to the President a plastic brief case.

The President thanked the members of the CCP and the PCI for their cooperation with the Administration and told them that he would be more grateful if they could raise the quality of their products.

EARLIER, the President ordered Brig. Gen. Manuel Cabal, PC chief, to provide protection to the witnesses in the Isabela murder cases. The Chief Executive's order came after two of the witnesses, accompanied by NBI Assistant Director Mariano Almeda, complained that they had been given no security except that extended to them by Almeda, who had been sleeping with them.

The President told Gen. Cabal by telephone that if the witnesses were left without PC protection they might be liquidated. The two witnesses, Onofre Sotelo and Pedro Nara, described to the President how the murders were committed. Sotelo was an eye-witness to the killing of the De la Cruz family.

ANOTHER directive to look after and regularly check up on the health of pupils in public elementary schools was given by the President to the members of the Food Commission who called on him. The President directed Dr. Wenceslao Pascual, former governor of Rizal and chairman of the Food Commission to confer with Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., on the possibility of circularizing all public elementary schools to require their pupils to eat regularly vegetables like mongo to improve their health condition and "to prepare them physically for further studies."

Mario d'Agata of Italy and Little Cesar of the Philippines, the two main protagonists in the boxing card for January 21, called on the President with their respective managers, Liberio Checchi and Dodo Carbo. The boxers were accompanied by Rep. Jacobo Gonzales of Laguna.

Gov. Rafael Lazatin and all the mayors from Pampanga were also among the many callers of the President. The mayors requested artesian wells, roads, bridges, and irrigation systems, and submitted to the President a resolution pledging their support and cooperation to the Administration.

A farmer from Upper Klinan, Cotabato, also called on the President and told him about the lack of drinking water and irrigation in his place. He showed the Chief Executive samples of his poor crops of corn and rice and the President told him that the engineer in Cotabato was now surveying the province for an irrigation project.

Other callers of the President included Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma; Reps. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz, Alberto Ubay of Zamboanga del Sur, Gaudencio Abordo of Palawan, Eulogio Rodriguez Jr., of Rizal, Tobias Fornier of Antique, Wenceslao Lagumbay of Laguna, Vicente Peralta of Sorsogon, Apolinario Apacible of Batangas, and Carlos Tan of Leyte; Govs. Arsenio Lugay of Tarlac and Juan Alberto of Catanduanes; Ambassador Jose Fuentebella; Don Manolo Elizalde; and Doña Conchita Vde. de Tan, mother of the late Rep. Gregorio Tan of Samar.

The President today appealed to all charity, civic, and private organizations to lend a helping hand in ameliorating the conditions of indigent patients in the government hospitals for whom he had directed the creation of socio-medical service units.

The President enlisted the help of private organizations immediately after receiving several bags of assorted antibiotics, vitamins, and medicines for intestinal worms from the Lederle Laboratories Division of the F. E. Zuellig, Inc. The medical contribution was accompanied by a letter which said that the donation was "in response to your request that medicine be made available to indigent patients, especially children, in local government hospitals."

The Chief Executive utilized the visit this morning of the officers of the YLAC (Young Ladies Association of Charities) to sound off his call for more help from charity, civic, and other private organizations for indigent patients. The President recounted to the YLAC officers how he was moved by the sad plight of the poor patients he saw at the San Lazaro Hospital. Members of the YLAC called on the President on the occasion of the kick-off of their 1956 fund campaign drive. The President donated to their fund campaign.

John H. Sheaf of the drug department of the F. E. Zuellig, Inc., told the President that the medical contribution of his company was made "with the hope that other pharmaceutical companies and distributors will join Operation MIP (Medicine for Indigent Patients) and make available medicines and vitamins to a great number of indigent patients in local hospitals." Ambrosio Ponce, sales supervisor of F. E. Zuellig, Inc., was also present at the presentation of the medicine to the President.

The President was very grateful for the donation and expressed hope that other organizations will join the movement to provide badly needed medicines for indigent patients in government hospitals all over the country.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this evening told Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol to warn all government agencies to respect the democratic rights of the people in the effort to thwart any Communist attempt to sabotage the rural development program.

The President handed the directive to Crisol as a follow-up to his instructions to the latter, to keep the government alerted on the reported Communist plot to sabotage the rural improvement program.

Crisol is chairman of an inter-departmental committee charged with the task of following up all government projects to insure their proper and efficient implementation. As such, the President directed him to watch out for any signs of Communist sabotage.

The President emphasized to Crisol that the people's rights and liberties should be scrupulously respected. He said the battle against the Communists should never be fought at the sacrifice and expense of democracy. He pointed out that the government should clearly distinguish between Communist sabotage and the simple exercise by citizens of such democratic rights as criticism, strikes, and others.

The President expressed this stand in a brief talk with Crisol immediately after a merienda press conference this afternoon at which the Chief Executive showed the way by reserving judgment on the motivation of the Hacienda Luisita and other sugar plantation strikes. Asked by newsmen whether they were Communist-inspired, the President said he did not know. "I want to have all the facts first," he said. "I want to study this carefully."

The President however confirmed the existence of the plot, although he said, it was merely the newest twist to the continuing Communist campaign to destroy the government. "They have been plotting from the very beginning," he said. He added that the plot to sabotage the rural improvement program was to be supplemented on another front by an attempt to sabotage the country's dollar reserves. He said, however, he did not yet know just how the Communists planned to do this.

Crisol reported to the President on his inspection trip earlier in the day to Bulacan and Pampanga to accelerate the completion of "priority" projects in the area.

Crisol conducted his "on-the-spot" survey in the Candaba swamp lands which are circumscribed by the sitios of Bahay Pare and Paligi in Bulacan and Sta. Monica and San Luis in Pampanga.

Traveling across the farmlands and interviewing the barrio folks in this area, Crisol immediately directed:

- (1) The redeployment of an AFP engineer construction team in the area;
- (2) The immediate construction of a feeder road that will connect Bahay Pare and Paligi, and
- (3) The immediate detail of at least two medical teams to the area to attend to the health needs of the barrio people.

Accompanying him in his tour were Esteban Hipolito, district engineer of Bulacan, and Lt. Cesar Santos, commander of the AFP engineer construction team which he redeployed to Bahay Pare.

IN the evening, the President inspected Projects 6 and 7 of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation (PHHC) and expressed satisfaction with the progress of the work on both sites.

Accompanied by PHHC General Manager Vicente Orosa and Malacañang newspapermen, the President left Malacañang at 5:30 p.m. after his regular weekly press conference and spent from 10 to 15 minutes in each project, returning to the Palace an hour later.

The Chief Executive was particularly happy to see for himself that, contrary to some impressions, construction work was well underway at the site of the out-houses in Quezon City and that in fact 100 low-cost dwellings already have been completed in this Project 7. Orosa told the President that the first family was scheduled to move in tomorrow. It will be a war veteran's family.

Orosa further said that 100 more units were actually under construction and that advertisements have already been issued for bids to construct the remaining 779 dwellings blueprinted for the project. The entire project will cost P3 million.

The President next motored to Project 6 and was impressed by the construction workmanship on the P8,000 bungalows that will be fanned out to low and middle-income groups. He was met at the project site by Supervising Engineer Lorenzo Samonte and other PHHC officials.

The President went through one bungalow and was satisfied with how its cost had been stretched to provide the best and most comfortable possible dwelling for that amount. He congratulated Orosa and Samonte for their work.

Project 6 will have 1,242 units on completion scheduled for March. It will cost P5 million.

On the way home, the President told the newspapermen who accompanied him that he had released another P20 million to the PHHC for the construction of tenement houses in Tondo to clear the slums in that district. He said low-cost housing and slums clearance was one of the major objectives of his administration.

January 17.—THE President moved this morning for congressional support in the third regular session of the third Congress empowering him to control prices and impose penalties for price control violations.

The President made known his plan at a breakfast conference with the Senate majority floor leader, Cipriano Primicias, and Sen. Alejo Mabanag, from 8 to 9 a.m., at Malacañang. The conference was intended primarily for the discussion of Pangasinan province and Northern Luzon affairs.

In the course of the conversation, the President told the two solons that the spiralling of prices had made it necessary for the enactment of legislation empowering him to control them and impose penalties for violations. The President told Primicias and Mabanag that he planned to enlist the support of other leaders of Congress behind the move.

Sen. Primicias pledged to the President that he would exert every effort to give top priority to the measure on the Senate's calendar and obtain approval within the first two weeks of the session. Sen. Mabanag likewise expressed his support.

The President said he was going to meet other leaders of both Chambers of Congress and the chairmen of the committees affected to enlist their support of the legislation.

A law empowering the Chief Executive to fix prices and punish violators was in effect under the old administration. It has not been renewed, however, since the advent of the Magsaysay administration.

The President today expressed his desire to purchase P2 million worth of machinery for the manufacture of cigars to enable the local tobacco industry to compete successfully in the world market.

In the course of a talk with a delegation from Isabela this morning, the President said Cagayan Valley produces the world's finest tobaccos and, if the whole valley could be planted with tobacco and if cigars could be mass-produced with the aid of machinery, the local tobacco industry could yet be turned into one of the nation's main dollar-producing industries.

Headed by Gov. Felix T. Caro, the delegation, composed of members of the provincial board and 18 mayors of Isabela, presented the President with a copy of the resolution unanimously passed at a recent meeting of Isabela's mayors' league expressing their faith and confidence in his leadership and urging him to run for reelection in 1957.

AFTER the breakfast conference which lasted from 8 to 9 a.m., the President received callers at his study until 12:30 p.m.

A delegation of farmers from Tayug, Pangasinan, sought the President's assistance in the enforcement of a Supreme Court ruling returning to them 300 hectares of rice lands allegedly taken away from them by the Hacienda Lichauco. The President immediately ordered the director of lands to look into the matter and to implement the reported decision of the high tribunal.

A big group of social workers representing a number of provinces in Luzon and the Visayas submitted a petition seeking the appointment of Mrs. Florinda I. Barcenas as social welfare administrator. The Chief Executive replied that there were about a hundred applicants for the position vacated by Sen. Pacita Madrigal-Gonzalez but that he

was going slow in filling up the position because he wanted to make sure that he would appoint one who would best serve the interests of the people.

A delegation from the Leyte Chamber of Commerce presented a petition signed by thousands of residents of Tacloban City requesting the reduction of electricity rates in the city. The group was accompanied by former Commerce Secretary Cornelio Balmaceda.

Arsenio N. Luz, new publisher of the *Evening News*, called to pay his respects following his assumption of office today. Luz was accompanied to the President by Press Secretary J. V. Cruz and Mabini R. Centeno, EN reporter covering Malacañang.

Other delegations received by the President this morning included those from Cagayan headed by Rep. Felipe Garduque, from Lanao headed by Sen. Domocao Alonto and Gov. Salvador Lluch, and from Mindoro Oriental headed by Gov. Infantado.

The Chief Executive also had numerous individual callers. Among them were Acting Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao; House Majority Floor Leader Arturo Tolentino; Reps. Fernando Pajarrillo of Camarines Norte, Francisco Perfecto of Catanduanes, Felix Fuentebella of Camarines Sur, and Ricardo Ladrado of Iloilo; Govs. Delfin N. Montano of Cavite, Dominador Chipeco of Laguna, Bernardino Almeda of Surigao, and Conrado Estrella of Pangasinan; Mayors Sergio Osmeña, Jr., of Cebu City and Leroy S. Brown of Basilan City; and Jesus Merrit, assistant to the general manager of the Philippine Homesite and Housing Corporation.

Meanwhile, the President issued a proclamation making public 10 conventions adopted by the International Labour Conference from 1948 to 1951. They were Convention 87 concerning freedom of association and protection of the right to organize; Convention 88 concerning the organization of employment service; Convention 89 concerning night work of women employed in industry; Convention 90 concerning night work of young persons employed in industry; Convention 93 concerning wages, hours of work on board ship, and manning; Convention 94 concerning labour clause in public contracts; Convention 95 concerning the protection of wages; Convention 98 concerning the application of principles of the right to organize and to bargain collectively; Convention 99 concerning minimum wage fixing machinery in agriculture; and Convention 100 concerning equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value. (Watch for the February issue of the *Official Gazette* for the full texts of these conventions.)

IN the afternoon, the President ordered an inquiry into why only one-third of the government-owned Buenavista estate in Bulacan had been sold to the tenants.

This matter was brought to the attention of the President as he discussed with provincial and city treasurers and assessors their problems and ways and means of increasing and intensifying revenue collection. These officials, who are currently holding a five-day convention in Manila from January 16 to 20, were accompanied to Malacañang by Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez and Undersecretary Jose Trinidad. The group was headed by Conrado Hernandez, city treasurer of Quezon City and president of the league of provincial and city treasurers and assessors.

One of the delegates told the President that only one-third of the Buenavista estate had been sold to the tenants and something should be done by the Government in order to be able to collect real estate taxes from the remaining two-thirds of the estate. It was remarked that the uncollected taxes for this large area meant a loss in revenue to the government.

The President directed Director Zoilo Castrillo of the Bureau of Lands to attend the Cabinet meeting Wednesday to shed light on the matter.

Another delegate suggested to the President that new legislation should be passed to amend the present assessment law which provides, among others, that in case of non-payment of taxes, only so much of the property as would satisfy the delinquent tax could be sold. It was the consensus of the delegates that it was more advisable to allow the sale of the entire property and, after deducting the taxes due, the balance of the sale should be turned over to the

property owners. The President said that steps would be taken to implement this suggestion in order to discourage tax delinquents.

The President said that some cities were not financially able to meet their obligations and that he had found difficulties in extending financial aid to these cities. He added that often the National Government gave more aid to the provinces than the revenues coming from provincial collections. He said that city officials should do their best to make their respective cities self-sufficient in their income.

The Chief Executive expressed satisfaction with the work of the provincial treasurers during the last elections in helping maintain a clean and orderly election.

Quezon City Treasurer Hernandez, in brief remarks, said that all the members of the Provincial and City Treasurers and Assessors League pledged their support to the Administration's policies. The President replied that all officials should first believe in the policies of the Administration in rendering the most efficient service and working with missionary zeal if they wished to succeed in their work.

After conferring with the treasurers and assessors, President Magsaysay received Gov. Antonio Raquiza of Ilocos Norte and Rep. Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur. They informed the President of their plan to launch a large-scale production of garlic in the Ilocos.

The President favored the suggestion of Gov. Raquiza to bring in Chinese experts from Taiwan to give expert advice on garlic production here. Raquiza is leaving soon on an agricultural mission to Formosa to observe the latest trends in agricultural production on garlic and unions.

With scientific know-how on the cultivation of garlic and union, it is believed that the country can become not only self-sufficient but able to export these products in the future.

Rep. Crisologo requested the President to include nurses in the exception to the ban on nepotism regarding employment. At present the ban exempts only physicians. The Philippine Nurses Association has requested Crisologo to request the President to include the nurses in the exempted class. Crisologo pointed out that nurses were badly needed in the country.

January 18.—WHILE presiding over the regular Cabinet meeting this morning, the President took time out to receive the members of the Philippine Contractors Association who protested against the increase in prices of the steel bars of the National Shipyards and Steel Corporation (NASSCO).

The President was informed by the delegation that since the new tariff order had gone into effect, the NASSCO was selling its steel bars at higher prices. Upon hearing this complaint, the President called up by telephone NASSCO General Manager Bernardo Abrera and told him not to raise the price of NASSCO steel. The President said that the NASSCO was established to stabilize prices and help the people, not to make money.

The delegation was composed of Domingo Poblete, president of the association; H. R. Lopez, vice-president; and Eduardo R. Escobar, Perfecto Manalac, Precioso Peña, and Placido Urbanes. The group also invited the President to address the closing ceremonies of the first Pan Asiatic Contractors Conference sponsored by the association which will take place on March 5 to 11, 1956.

THE President convoked the regular meeting of the Cabinet at 10 o'clock this morning.

The President and the Cabinet at their meeting today:

(1) Heard Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia report on the result of the efforts of the Department of Foreign Affairs to get Burmese rice or any other kind of rice except Iranian rice in the current negotiations with Japan to barter with 20,000 metric tons of Philippine D-2 sugar, special quota.

In two previous Cabinet meetings, the Cabinet had rejected Iranian rice. Vice-President Garcia's written memorandum on the subject is still under study by the Cabinet;

(2) Heard Lands Director Zoilo Castrillo report on why two-thirds of the Buenavista estate has not been subdivided and sold to the tenants, and why no positive steps have been taken to speed up the distribution of the area to the tenants;

(3) Ordered NASSCO General Manager Bernardo Abrera not to raise the price of its steel bars;

(4) Authorized the provincial treasurers of Davao, Surigao, and Agusan each to advance an amount not exceeding P50,000 for immediate relief and assistance to the flood victims of these provinces;

(5) Authorized Filomeno Kintanar, chairman of the Board of Liquidators, to sell former Japanese-owned lands to those already settled on them; and

(6) Formed a committee to take charge of implementing the exchange visitors program insofar as the Philippine participation was concerned.

IN his memorandum to the Cabinet Vice-President Garcia said that if the Philippines insisted in rejecting Iranian rice which was the only kind of rice Japan could get at this time, "we will forfeit our special sugar quota of 20,000 metric tons for the year 1955." As the 20,000 metric tons of sugar cannot be sold to any other country because there was no bidder and because the time to dispose of the sugar would expire soon, the sugar would go to waste, he said.

Vice-President Garcia concluded: "Rather than allow this 20,000 tons of sugar to go to waste, it is suggested that we accept the Iranian rice in exchange for our sugar and that this rice be imported by the NARIC and resold to the sugar exporters at a profit of 6 per cent and under the condition that such rice be distributed only in the sugar area where the bartered sugar was produced."

PRESIDENT Magsaysay told Director Castrillo, who was directed to appear before the Cabinet, to take immediate steps in surveying the remaining 20,000 hectares of the government-owned Buenavista estate in Bulacan so that it could be subdivided to the tenants and the real estate taxes collected from the lots. The President said five teams of surveying companies should be employed if necessary in order to finish the work within the shortest possible time.

Castrillo explained that it was impossible to survey and subdivide earlier the 20,000 hectares because of lack of funds. Besides, he said, this job required time to finish in view of the vastness of the property. However, he said that about P188,000 was already available for survey work and that he would get the services of several survey teams to hasten the work.

The President also told Castrillo to help in the preparation of an amendment to the landed estate law so that taxes could be collected on the lots owned by the tenants immediately upon the signing of the deed of sale and not wait for 10 years.

UPON being informed by PCAC Chairman Frisco San Juan that relief goods could not be delivered to the flood victims in Mindanao because the flood waters had reportedly risen to 18 feet, the President told Finance Secretary Jamie Hernandez to wire the provincial treasurers of Davao, Surigao, and Agusan authorizing them to advance amounts not exceeding P50,000 for each province in order to enable relief agents to buy goods on the spot for distribution to the flood sufferers.

It was pointed out that the governors and the municipal treasurers should coordinate with the Army authorities in order to facilitate relief activities in the area.

The President directed Chairman Kintanar of the Board of Liquidators to take steps in selling immediately formerly Japanese-owned lands to those already living in those areas. These lands are found in Davao, Zamboanga, and Manila. The President warned that special care be taken that the lands are sold at appropriate prices.

Kintanar was also directed to study the preparation of legislation governing the collection of taxes on these formerly Japanese-owned lots upon the signing of the deed of sale.

The President appointed Health Secretary Paulino Garcia and Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., as co-chairmen with Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol representing the President and Foreign Undersecretary Raul S Manglapus as members of a committee to take charge of the implementation of the exchange visitors program insofar as Philippine participation was concerned.

The exchange visitors program as embodied in an act entitled "United States Information and Educational Act of 1948, Amended," allows an opportunity for aliens falling under the term "exchange visitor" and under certain categories to enter the United States temporarily to study and earn at the same time.

IN the evening, the President received a delegation from Zambales, headed by Gov. Manuel Barreto.

January 19.—AT a breakfast conference this morning with members of his Tax Advisory Board, the President received an 18-page report and recommendations on proposed tax legislation for consideration of the Third Congress at the forthcoming third regular session. At the conference were Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, chairman; Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, CB Governor Miguel Cuaderno, Revenue Collector Silverio Blaquera, Deputy Revenue Collector Jose Arañas, and Artemio Lobrin, members. Also present was NEC Chairman Alfredo Montelibano.

The report and recommendations adhered faithfully to the President's declared stand against any new taxes that would increase the burden on the general public.

The board submitted specific tax proposals estimated to raise a total amount of over P152 million. Of this amount, however, P150 million will be realized from the revival and/or extension of taxes which expired last December 31 or are scheduled to expire next June 30.

The remaining P2 million plus will come from adjustments in present tax laws and revisions of antiquated levies to make them "conform with the principles of ability to pay."

Upon receiving the report at a breakfast-conference with members of the board, the President immediately cleared the way for informal consultations with Congress by announcing he will send copies to Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., and House Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., with the request that they be circulated in their respective chambers for study and comment. Presumably the copies will be distributed initially to members of the Senate finance committee and the House ways and means committee. The three-part report covered:

1. The enactment of laws which would revive the rates of taxes which expired on December 31, 1955, and make such revived tax rates permanent along with other existing tax rates;
2. Proposals for an equitable distribution of the tax burden by correcting inequalities in the present tax laws and revising antiquated law in order to conform with the principles of ability to pay;
3. Proposals to amend certain provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code and the enactment of new laws with a view to making the tax collection machinery more efficient and effective and preventing tax evasion.

While the President said he was going to study the report more closely, he indicated his satisfaction with the manner in which the board had steered clear of proposing new or increased taxes which would have hit the lower classes.

The board, through its chairman, Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, informed the President it was preparing a second report which would deal with customs levies.

The President congratulated the board for its work. Those present aside from Hernandez were Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, Central Bank Gov. Miguel Cuaderno, BIR Collector Silverio Blaquera, BIR Deputy Collector Jose Arañas, and Artemio Lobrin, all board members. Also present was Alfredo Montelibano, chairman of the National Economic Council.

The conference lasted from 8 to 9:15 a.m. Following the conference, the President proceeded to his study where he received numerous callers.

THE President today instructed Director Daniel M. Salcedo of the Bureau of Private Schools to continue with his policy of strict supervision of private institutions in order to maintain a high standard of education in this country.

“We have good private schools comparable with those in the United States and Europe,” the President said. “I would like to see more diploma mills eliminated if they cannot keep up with the educational standards set for them.”

Director Salcedo reported that his bureau had closed a total of 205 private schools last year. He said that other schools established all over the country were being closely watched and that he expected to cancel the permits of many more when the school year ends in March.

The occasion was the call this morning of a delegation from the Association of Superintendents and Supervisors of Private Schools which presented the President with a resolution pledging continued loyalty and cooperation in the implementation of the economic policies of the Administration.

Headed by Bartolome R. Cruz, association president, the delegation registered its opposition to a reported plan of the Government Survey and Reorganization Commission to effect a reduction of personnel in the Bureau of Private Schools, saying that such reduction would result in the relaxation of supervision of private institutions.

The President assured the group that he would be against any move to relax government supervision of private schools. He told Director Salcedo, who was with the group, to keep close watch on them and to curtail the production of half-baked graduates. Also with the delegation was Jesus L. Perpiñan, assistant director.

A delegation of school children from the Moises Salvador Elementary School in Sampaloc, Manila, presented the President with a 50-peso bill as their contribution to the Liberty Wells fund drive. Twelve-year old Felicitas Fulgencio, a sixth grade pupil, who handed the bill, informed the President that the amount had been accumulated from coins dropped daily by the children in a wishing well, a project they had agreed to set up to assist in the fund campaign. The pupils were accompanied to Malacañang by Mrs. Caridad C. Salonga, assistant principal.

A delegation from the Business Writers Association of the Philippines called to invite the Chief Executive to be guest at their annual awards dinner to be held sometime next month to honor outstanding businessmen and commercial firms of the year. In the group were Ernesto Ilustre of the *Manila Times* and Tesoro de Guzman of the *Daily Mirror*, outgoing and incoming presidents, respectively, of the BWAP.

Keen Johnson, vice-president of the Reynolds Metal Company, also invited the President to the inauguration of their new six million-peso aluminum plant on Highway 54 on January 28. Johnson, who recently arrived here for the inauguration, is former U. S. undersecretary of labor and governor of the State of Kentucky.

Representatives of the Federation of Filipino Retailers presented the President with a petition requesting, among other things, the allocation of \$100 million to the NAMARCO to enable the entity to import sufficient quantities of merchandise for resale to Filipino retailers. The group was headed by Mateo Herrera, executive secretary of the federation.

A delegation of farmers from Sta. Cruz, Laguna, requested the exclusion of a tract of public land they were cultivating from the forestry reservation in their locality. Accompanied by Rep. Jacobo Gonzales, the farmers informed the President that some 100 families were depending on the land as their only means of livelihood.

Letter carriers from Pasay City asked the President's assistance in their petition for increase of their salaries. Headed by Jose P. Roman, the post office employees said that some of them had been in the service for 19 years without benefit of salary increases.

Some 500 jobless marine laborers and technicians called to ask the President whether they could be utilized in the salvage work being undertaken by Japanese technicians in Philippine waters, in connection with the reparations agreement between this country and Japan. The Chief Executive said he would take up the matter with Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia.

Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez accompanied Vicente C. Ramos, a financial assistant in his department, who called to pay his respects prior to his retirement after serving in the government for 52 years.

The Chief Executive received no less than 1,000 persons this morning. He received them continuously from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Most of them were made up of delegations from the provinces.

Such delegations were those from Cotabato, headed by Rep. Luminog Mangelen and former Senator Salipada Pendatun; from Isabela, accompanied by Rep. Samuel F. Reyes; from Pampanga, headed by Board Member Amado Castillo; from Nueva Ecija, headed by Rep. Celestino Juan and Gov. Amado Aleta; from Davao, headed by Gov. Alejandro Almendras; from Dansalan City, headed by Mayor Cosain Naga; and from Tagaytay City, headed by Mayor Isaac Tolentino.

Individual callers included Sen. Ruperto Kangleon, Reps. Francisco Ortega of La Union and Constancio Castañeda of Tarlac, and Gov. Antonio Raquiza of Ilocos Norte.

IN the afternoon the President received the letters of credence of the first Ambassador of France to the Philippines, Jean Brionval, at ceremonies held at the Malacañang ceremonial hall.

In his speech, Ambassador Brionval said that in raising the rank of its diplomatic mission in the Philippines, the French Government wished to emphasize its desire to strengthen and develop its relations "with a friendly government and with a nation as anxious as the French nation to secure world peace and to defend democratic liberty."

In response, the President said that the elevation of the French legation to embassy was a recognition of the increasing importance of the happy relations between the French and the Philippine Governments.

The French Ambassador spoke in French while the President responded in English. The President then introduced Ambassador Brionval to the Philippine officials headed by Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia, Cabinet members, and foreign affairs officials. Brionval introduced his first secretary, Jacques Boizet.

The President and the French Ambassador then exchanged diplomatic toasts.

The ceremony started at 4:30 p.m. and ended about 5 p.m.

THE President this afternoon directed the CB Monetary Board to restore the dollar allocations of the NAMARCO in order that it could supply Filipino retailers with essential commodities and thus help stabilize prices. He also inquired about the progress of the screening of licenses of producers which the Central Bank was conducting in order to eliminate fake producers.

The President conferred this afternoon with members of the Monetary Board and CB officials in Malacañang. Those present were Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, chairman; CB Governor Miguel Cuaderno; Dean Vicente Sinco; Judge Sixto de la Costa, representing RFC Chairman Eduardo Romualdez; Special Assistant Gregorio S. Licaros, in charge of imports; R. Marino Corpus, in charge of exports; and Nicanor Tomas, superintendent of banks. Col. Jaime Velasquez and Dr. Amando Dalisay, new members of the board, were not present.

The President told the Monetary Board that the NAMARCO allocations should be restored in order that it could import essential commodities to be distributed to retailers and thus help stabilize prices. It was agreed that the NAMARCO would get P3 million every quarter for the importation of foods, clothing (retazos), shelter, and medicine.

Licaros informed the President that 30 assistants were examining the licenses of producers in an effort to eliminate the fake ones. He said that about P1 1/2 million worth of licenses had already been cut and that more was expected.

The President said that the CB should continue its work of screening carefully the genuine from the fake dollar licensees.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this evening paid tribute to Filipino farmers who have succeeded in increasing their rice yield by announcing that the 25 winners in this year's hundred-cavan-per-hectare rice contest will be awarded the Legion of Merit by the Philippine Government for their constructive service to the country. The President made this announcement as he personally awarded prizes to the winners of the contest at ceremonies at the Executive Office grounds this evening.

The President said that this year's winners should be made to tour the country and lecture to barrio farmers on how to increase their rice production in order that the nation could become self-sufficient in rice. He added that they should be made to teach in agricultural schools in order that students could benefit from their practical experience in increasing rice production.

The President also suggested that in the next contest students and professors in agricultural schools should participate in order to show if they could better the achievements of practical rice farmers.

The President was so impressed by the results of this year's contest that he personally congratulated the winners as he awarded the prizes. He was informed that this year's national winner of the lowland rain-fed farms, Cornelio Feliciano, produced 177 cavans, 5 gantas, and 3 chupas as against 163 cavans harvested by the first prize winner last year. Feliciano, who comes from Teringsing, Cordon, Isabela, received as his prize one Pony Tractor Massey Harris, valued at P5,282, and donated by the National Merchandising Corporation.

The President got on the tractor and operated it.

This year's contest was featured by a provincial third award winner, Mrs. Leonor Luciano, from San Nicolas, Magalang, Pampanga, who raised 111 cavans and 4 gantas per hectare. The President was pleased upon knowing that she had leased the land from her husband. The President remarked jokingly that this was an indication of good landlord-tenant relations in Pampanga.

Pedro Villanueva, who won the first award among provincial winners in Isabela, this year raised 170 cavans, 2 gantas, and 1 chupa per hectare. He was last year's first prize winner by raising 163 cavans. He said that he was able to better his record by using his Farmall Cub, which he had won as a prize last year, awarded by President Magsaysay and donated by International Harvester Company.

Twenty-five farmers won in this year's nation-wide 100 cavans per hectare rice contest for the crop year 1954-1955. The awards included a tractor, some engines, pumps, and bags of fertilizers donated by various commercial firms of Manila.

This year's contest was sponsored by the Soil Science Society of the Philippines. Jesus P. Mausaw, president of the society, acted as master of ceremonies during the program. Department secretaries and high government officials attended the program.

At a dinner party in Pasay City given in the evening in honor of former Ambassador Joaquin M. Elizalde, President Magsaysay and Sen. Claro M. Recto met for the first time since their break before the last elections. Both appeared surprised upon meeting each other at the party, but surprise gave way to an exchange of pleasantries.

Senator Recto, upon seeing the President, shook the latter's hand and greeted him. "How are you, Mr. President?" To which the President replied, "Fine, and how is the Senator?"

Senator Recto said he didn't realize the man to whom his host accompanied him upon his arrival was the President until they shook hands.

The President spoke well of Senator Recto to newsmen who rode with him in his car after the party.

The President had arrived as early as about 6:30 for dinner at 7 because he had another engagement. He was accompanied by NAMARCO General Manager Manuel J. Gonzalez and Maj. Pat Garcia, his aide.

January 20.—AFTER breakfast this morning, the President received Michael T. Kelleher, vice-president of the USO, and Thomas Henton, executive director of the National Community Service, who were accompanied to Malacañang by U. S. Ambassador Homer Ferguson.

Kept preoccupied by the preparation of his state-of-the-nation address to be delivered Monday at the joint session of the Third Congress marking the opening of its third regular session, the President received a few callers this day.

Gov. Amado Aleta and Rep. Celestino Juan of Nueva Ecija called on the President and informed him that a self-help barrio road will be started on January 30. They invited the President to attend the beginning of construction work on the road.

Other callers of the President were Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, Rep. Arturo M. Tolentino, ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo, and MRR General Manager Salvador Villa.

The President also summoned Mrs. Amparo P. Villamor, acting administrator of the Social Welfare Administration. He took up with the acting SWA head the protest of Sen. Pacita Madrigal-Gonzalez, who reported that the SWA was planning to lay off some 150 employees.

AFTER his conference with Mrs. Villamor, the President motored to the SWA office for a surprise visit.

What interested the President most in his visit to the SWA offices were the self-help projects in home industries, which, according to the SWA officials, were benefiting about 25,000 families all over the country. The Chief Executive said that the project could be enlarged into a money-making business.

Accomplishments which SWA officials reported to the President were the establishment of 320 SWA unit branches all over the country, 52 provincial branches, six city branches, 5,000 self-help projects benefiting about 25,000 families, and the operations of 564 field workers with at least 10 in every province.

During the President's visit to the SWA office, he met a wife of a jailed Huk suspect. The woman, Josefa Sabilona, was with two of her three children begging for aid from the SWA. Moved by the story of the woman who said that her husband was in the Pampanga provincial jail and that her oldest child, 4, was at the Welfareville, the President told her that he would look into her husband's case.

The President directed the SWA officials to expand their self-help projects in home industries. He saw samples of the projects at the SWA office. In return, the SWA officials assured the Chief Executive of more and better results.

Mrs. Villamor and the division chiefs of the SWA petitioned the President that a government housing project for beggars be constructed.

The SWA officials complained to the President of their poor trucks and wagons and the lack of funds. The President said that he would have their trucks and wagons serviced and would give them additional transportation facilities. He also directed GSIS General Manager Rodolfo P. Andal to approve a P150,000 loan for the SWA to finance the Baranca project for physically-handicapped persons who desire to learn carpentry, electricity, sewing, and other vocations. Aside from this, the President said that he would look for more funds for the various projects of the SWA. He urged the SWA officials and employees to expand their activities.

During their call on the President, the SWA division and section chiefs took occasion to petition the Chief Executive to appoint permanently as SWA administrator Mrs. Vilamor, who “shares with us the enthusiasm and persistence to pursue our goal of developing the rural areas to the most remote barrios in accordance with Your Excellency’s program of community development.” They submitted a resolution signed by many employees of the SWA.

The President arrived at the SWA office at about 11 a.m., a few minutes after seeing the SWA officials at Malacañang. He directly proceeded to the vocational rehabilitation section where the physically-handicapped were working on their projects. He returned to Malacañang at about 11:40 a.m.

MALACAÑANG served warning today that the Office of the President would take appropriate administrative action against provincial, city, and municipal officials committing acts of oppression or persecution, especially against their subordinate officers and employees.

This announcement was made after the President had received reports from certain quarters that several newly elected provincial, city, and municipal officials upon their assumption of office had started unwarranted and unjustified removals of subordinate employees in order to create vacancies for their political followers or supporters and/or recommendees of their leaders.

Malacañang recalled that last year President Magsaysay had issued a circular containing regulations governing the removal and replacement of subordinate officers and employees in the provincial, city, and municipal governments.

The circular protected qualified and efficient public servants from being removed from the service for frivolous and whimsical reasons. It was issued on April 3, 1954, entitled “Regulations governing tenure and removal of subordinate officers and employees in the local governments.”

The order quoted section 4 of Article XII of the Constitution which directs that “no officer or employee in the civil service shall be removed or suspended except for cause as provided by law.”

Malacañang ordered a redistribution of this circular to the newly elected provincial, city, and municipal officials for their guidance and compliance.

MALACAÑANG today issued a directive ordering three pilots placed under technical arrest pending the investigation of “hazing” charges against them. At the same time a board of inquiry was created to investigate the charges.

The pilots under fire are Second Lieutenants Federico Ablan, Mariano San Antonio, and Adriano Cruz. The board of officers created to investigate the charges is composed of Col. Benito as chairman; Lt. Col. Romeo Honasan and one representative of the Inspector General’s office, as members.

Complainant against the pilots is an ex-aviation cadet, Rodolfo Leuenberger, whose father sent a letter to President Magsaysay informing him of brutalities, indignities, and humiliating treatment the ex-cadet had allegedly suffered at the hands of the upper-class men.

The President sent for the father and, after personally hearing the complaints, ordered the necessary directive to be issued. The investigating board will conduct its inquiry in Iloilo City, where ex-Cadet Leuenberger and other witnesses now enrolled in some Iloilo colleges may be contacted.

Malacañang also announced today that President Magsaysay had appointed Pacifico L. Velilla as president of the Philippine College of Commerce, in place of Luis F. Reyes, retired.

Velilla, who was sworn into office by Acting Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon, was a professor of business and management of the Jose Rizal College from 1925 to 1947, and from 1946 to 1955 was a professor in the graduate institute of the Far Eastern University, handling economics, business, and management.

The President likewise appointed four judges of the remaining vacant positions in the nine-man Court of Agrarian Relations, filled 23 out of 24 positions for CAR commissioners, and named nine clerks of court.

Appointed by Malacañang as CAR judges were Nicolas Villaruz, Pastor Reyes, Pastor de Guzman, and Jose M. Santos.

Previously appointed to the CAR were Guillermo Santos, presiding judge; and Tomas Panganiban, Jose Cabatuando, Leon Decayo, and Domingo Cabangon, members.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay issued today Administrative Order No. 72, requiring Dr. Felino N. Hernandez to resign as member and acting chairman of the Board of Optical Examiners today.

The order required Hernandez to tender his resignation within 15 days upon receipt of the order. The order added that if he failed to do so within the given period, he will be deemed removed from his post effective the day following the expiration of the period.

An administrative case had been filed against Dr. Hernandez, who was charged with a number of irregularities including neglect of duty, incompetence, and unprofessional and immoral conduct supposedly committed by him as a member of the board. The charges were looked into by a special investigating committee.

January 21.—CANCELLING his scheduled callers this day, the President enclosed himself in his bedroom and went over the draft of his state-of-the-nation speech to be delivered before the joint session of the Third Congress Monday afternoon. He shied away from visitors the whole morning.

In the afternoon, the President and the First Lady saw Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, who celebrated his 73rd birthday today. The First Couple stayed at the Senate President's residence for about an hour. They were accompanied by Maj. Jose Estrella, presidential aide.

In the evening, the President again went over his state-of-the-nation address. He was assisted by some advisers in putting the finishing touches to the final draft of the speech.

January 22.—AFTER several nights of preoccupation with the preparation of his state-of-the-nation speech, the President relaxed in his bedroom the whole morning today.

At noon, the President had lunch with Legislative Secretary Jose C. Nable, Press Secretary J. V. Cruz, and Private Secretary Noli Reyes. The four went over the final form of the state-of-the-nation address for further polishing before being sent to the press. It was sent to the Bureau of Printing about 3:30 in the afternoon.

After a short nap in the afternoon, the President motored out of Malacañang and cruised around the city for much needed relaxation. He returned to the Palace early in the evening.

January 23.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning received the Senate and House special committees which informed him of the opening of the third regular session of the Third Congress this year.

The Senate committee was composed of Senators Lorenzo Sumulong, chairman, Pedro Sabido, and Lorenzo M. Tañada. Rep. Maximino Noel of Cebu was the chairman of the House committee which included Reps. Daniel Romualdez of Leyte, Eladio Balite of Samar, and Tecla San Andres-Ziga of Albay.

The members of the special committees had a toast with the President for the success of the congressional session and stayed with him for about 30 minutes. The House committee arrived at 10:55 a.m., and the Senate committee followed five minutes later.

The President spent the rest of the morning going over his state-of-the-nation address.

For the third consecutive day the President shied away from callers this morning and confined himself to his bedroom. While waiting for the expected arrival of the special committees of Congress, he went over his state-of-the-nation address for possible further improvements, changing a word here, deleting a sentence there, or inserting a phrase where it could best contribute to force or clarity.

AT 4:30 in the afternoon, the President motored to the Legislative Building to address the joint session of the Third Congress. He was accompanied by two aides, Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo and Maj. Jose Estrella.

The President, wearing a white double-breasted sharkskin suit, showed up at the entrance to the session hall of the House of Representatives at exactly 5 p.m. His presence was announced by Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr.

The President's entry was met by a thunderous ovation from the solons and from the people who packed the galleries.

Flanked by Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez and Speaker Laurel, the President proceeded to the rostrum. Upon reaching the rostrum, he read his state-of-the-nation address. It took him exactly 37 minutes to finish reading his message.

In his state-of-the-nation address, President Magsaysay presented to Congress a 10-point legislative program as he reiterated the basic policy of his administration—the happiness and security of the common man.

The program presented for consideration of Congress is intended to boost the economic development of the country and, at the same time, step up the efficiency of the Administration.

President Magsaysay outlined in his message the following “guideposts” for legislative implementation:

1. Self-sufficiency in primary foodstuffs;
2. Acceleration of land reforms;
3. Establishment of a strong administrative machinery for community development;
4. Fuller utilization of natural resources in economic development;
5. Improvement of monetary and credit management to accelerate economic development;
6. Adoption of educational reforms geared to the requirements of scientific and economic progress;
7. Need for scientific research as a basis of economic and social development;
8. Redefinition of the incentives for private enterprise;
9. Stabilization of the fiscal position of the government; and
10. Need for raising efficiency in public administration.

In his state-of-the-nation address, the President asked Congress to:

1. Prevent spiralling of prices of essential commodities, either by the adoption of a well-studied price control system or the passage of other effective measures;
2. Attain self-sufficiency in the basic foods;
3. Pass other legislation providing land to the landless;
4. Create a department of community development and public welfare;
5. Increase appropriations for the continuance and expansion of resources surveys and investigations;
6. Expand credit facilities and direct proper allocation of foreign exchange as an incentive to agricultural and industrial production;
7. Revitalize the educational system with emphasis on general, scientific, and vocational education;
8. Set aside more funds for scientific research and investigation;
9. Adopt a far-sighted tax policy on donations and grants for scientific research purposes; and
10. Enact an investment law which would provide an attractive atmosphere for domestic and foreign capital to set up industries in the Philippines.

(See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 90-100, for the full text of the President's message to Congress.)

January 24.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay reaffirmed today the stable currency policies of the Central Bank by announcing that the peso shall remain at its present rate of exchange with the dollar. Rumors of devaluation, the President said, are unfounded.

The President reiterated this stand after a brief conference at Malacañang with Gov. Miguel Cuaderno of the Central Bank, who was leaving this evening for the U. S. on a mission.

Malacañang said that as evidence of this policy reaffirmed by the President and to allow industrial investors to proceed with confidence, the Monetary Board of the Central Bank will hereafter consider applications from Philippine banks to sell foreign exchange forward at the present exchange rate against letters of credit for the import of industrial machinery and equipment needed for development projects approved by the Monetary Board.

This privilege will apply to all industrial investment projects approved by the Monetary Board in the past, but for which the related industrial machinery and equipment has not yet been delivered, and to industrial investment projects which will subsequently be processed through the Industrial Development Center, recommended by the National Economic Council and whose dollar financing is approved by the Monetary Board.

This new arrangement will mean that prospective investors of approved projects can safely obligate themselves under the present exchange rate to import industrial machinery and equipment because the future exchange cost will not vary from the present.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today released P3 million to the Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Financing Administration (ACCFA) for the establishment of a tobacco redrying plant in La Union.

During a conference with ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo this noon, the President also released an additional P1 million to be made available to farmers in the form of loans to enable them to purchase work animals and farm implements.

The President decided to put up the redrying plant in La Union because it is the most strategically located among the tobacco-producing provinces in Northern Luzon. He pointed out that the plant would be along a railroad line and near a port.

Because of shortage of technical men to operate the redrying plant, the Government is setting up only one plant which could be utilized by the tobacco-producing provinces of Pangasinan, La Union, Ilocos Sur, Abra, and Ilocos Norte. He said that more plants would be established as more technicians became available.

Col. Mondoñedo estimated that the redrying plant would realize a net profit of P1 million a year. He said that the profit would be distributed to some 10,000 tobacco farmers in the form of patronage dividend.

Earlier, the President authorized the release of P100,000 to start the projected government goatery farms in Tawitawi. He instructed Gov. Leon Fernandez of Sulu, who called at Malacañang with a delegation this morning, to help out in the project which envisions the establishment of a tannery, a creamery, and a meat cannery in the island.

THE President today suspended Florentino Montemayor, acting superintendent of the equipment depot of the Bureau of Public Highways in the North Harbor, pending investigation of charges filed against him which included persecution of subordinates, padding of payrolls, and negligence in the performance of his duties. The Chief Executive telephoned Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno and ordered the immediate suspension of Montemayor.

Col. Nicanor Jimenez, chairman of the Philippine delegation to the anti-subversion committee conference of the SEATO recently held in Bangkok, Thailand, tendered a preliminary report. Accompanied by Lt. Col. Jose Lukban of the NBI and Alberto Katigbak of the Department of Foreign Affairs, members of the delegation, Col. Jimenez also delivered a brass replica of the seal of the Thai national police as a gift from Gen. Pao Sriyanonda, director general of the Thai national police and deputy minister of the interior.

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of the Canlubang Elementary School in Laguna presented the President with a table lamp the switch of which is operated by means of a miniature artesian well made of wood and rattan. The scouts delegation composed of about 200 boys and girls was accompanied by Gov. Dominador Chipeco.

Gov. Delfin N. Montano of Cavite accompanied Mrs. Esperanza Saporidad, 35, widow of Antero Lugay, a barrio lieutenant of Gen. Trias, who had been shot in the head while giving chase to a band of cattle rustlers a few days ago. The President condoled with the widow, gave her aid, and ordered that a citation be given her husband, who met his death while trying to protect lives and property in his barrio.

Gov. Francisco Infantado of Mindoro Oriental accompanied a delegation of mayors from his province which presented him with a resolution reiterating their confidence in his leadership and urging him to run for reelection in 1957.

Other delegations included those from Quezon, headed by Manuel Enverga; from Isabela, headed by Rep. Samuel F. Reyes; from Lanao, accompanied by former Senator Tomas Cabili; from Nasugbu, Batangas, accompanied by Rep. Apolinario Apacible; and from Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, headed by Mayor Pedro Riñoza.

Individual callers were Speaker Protempore Daniel Z. Romualdez; Sen. Decoroso Resales; Reps. Wenceslao Lagumbay of Laguna, Godofredo Ramos and Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz, Reynaldo P. Honrado of Surigao, Guillermo Sanchez of Agusan, Augusto Francisco and Angel Castaño of Manila, Francisco Pajao and Alberto Aguja of Leyte, and Jose Roy of Tarlac; Govs. Alejandro Almendras of Davao, Juan F. Triviño of Camarines Sur, Antonio Raquiza of Ilocos Norte, Marcos Malupa of Batanes, and Rafael Lazatin of Pampanga; and James Jacobson, vice-president of the Chase National Bank.

President Magsaysay this afternoon asked the Chinese business community to help keep prices of commodities down and immediately received from officials of the Federation of Chinese Chambers of Commerce in the Philippines and the Chinese Chamber of Commerce their pledges to cooperate in this effort.

Representatives of the Manila Chinese Textiles Wholesalers Association and the Manila International Foodstuff Importers Association came to Malacañang this afternoon with prepared statements promising their help and listing the prices of their goods to guide their retailers. The listed current prices were compared with December 1955 figures to show that there were no exorbitant increases.

But an official of the Federation, First Vice-President Peter Lim, admitted to the President that while the majority of Chinese merchants adhered to the prices pegged by wholesalers, plus a reasonable profit, there was a small minority which was raising prices exorbitantly. He charged this group with destroying the good name of the Chinese community.

The President told Lim to identify this minority to the Government so that proper measures could be taken against them. He asked that in the future the Chinese wholesalers should boycott retailers who marked up their goods excessively. The wholesalers promised to do this.

The President met with the Chinese traders at the Malacañang ceremonial hall. The actual discussion of the price problem was preceded by a *merienda* at the porch. The meeting with the Chinese traders lasted from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Chinese Ambassador Chen Chih-Mai, who was present, gave his own assurance that the Chinese community “will cooperate with you to the fullest extent in keeping the prices of prime commodities at reasonable levels.”

The President told the Chinese merchants he had called them to Malacañang to appeal for their support in holding down prices. He said he did not want artificially-generated prices to cause hardships on the people, particularly the poor and laboring classes.

Consulting Tariff Commissioner Montano A. Tejam and his chief economist, David Manipula, who were on hand, the President told the Chinese businessmen, that price increases could not be justified on the basis of the newly-imposed tariffs because in many cases these tariffs were slightly higher than the previous figures. He cited milk, the tariff rate on which went up by less than one-half-centavo a can, and sardines, which increased by only one centavo a can.

The President said it was evident that price increases were the result of manipulation and he was thus asking that this manipulation be stopped. He said he did not deny the right of merchants to make a reasonable profit on their sales but added this was vastly different from marking up prices excessively.

The President told his listeners he was making the appeal with full confidence that it would be heeded. “I want to make clear, however,” he warned, “that if prices do not stop going up I will not hesitate to take drastic measures. I will do everything necessary to protect the people.

While the President did not specify what “drastic measures would be applied, it had been previously indicated that withdrawal of dollar allocations of profiteering merchants was one of the sanctions being considered.

IN the evening, the President received Col. Jacinto Gavino and officials of the National Rice and Corn Corporation at a dinner in Malacañang.

January 25.—THE President started his conferences with leaders of Congress with a breakfast conference this morning with Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr.

After the conference with Speaker Laurel, the President received retired Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque and officers of the CONVETS who invited him to a program sponsored by the association on the celebration of the liberation of Manila.

Others who saw the President this morning before presiding over the regular Cabinet meeting were Rep. Ramon Mitra of Mountain Province and Mayor Alfonso Tabora of Baguio City.

AT 10 a.m., the President entered the Council of State room and presided over the meeting of his Cabinet.

The President and the Cabinet at their meeting today abandoned the proposed tri-partite barter of “D” sugar with Japan owing to the unacceptability of Iranian rice, and decided instead on a direct barter of “D” sugar with Burmese rice.

At the Cabinet meeting, the President:

- (1) Directed all available stocks, including those in transit, of galvanized iron sheets, cement, steel sheets and steel bars, and water pipes belonging to three government agencies to be placed immediately at the disposal of the Department of Public Works and Communications in order to give priority in the prosecution of the Administration’s public works projects, especially in the rural areas;
- (2) Approved a proposed proclamation reserving the old Bilibid compound with an area of 12,187.60 square meters for the use of the City of Manila as sites for a playground and the enlargement of the Central Market; and
- (3) Heard Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, chairman of the presidential inter-departmental rural task force, report his findings on the rotting of pre-fabricated school houses in four barrios in Altavas, Capiz, and on the bogging down of rural projects in Catanduanes, such as the hydroelectric power plant, irrigation projects, and feeder roads because of administrative red tape and cumbersome procedures in certain agencies of the government.

The Cabinet considered anew the proposed tri-partite barter project for the exchange of 20,000 metric tons of “D” sugar with Iranian rice as previously proposed, through Japan. It was decided that the barter with Japan should be abandoned in view of the unacceptability of the Iranian rice and that instead, direct negotiations on a government-to-government level be initiated by the Department of Foreign Affairs with the representative of the Burmese Government in Manila for direct barter.

The Cabinet decided that 20,000 metric tons of “D” sugar be bartered with 20,000 metric tons of Burmese rice on a ton-to-ton basis.

The President appointed a committee with Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia as chairman, and Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, representing PHILSUGIN, and NARIC General Manager Jacinto Gavino as members, to work out the details for the implementation of the barter and the mechanics of distribution. The committee met at 3 p.m. today at the office of the Vice-President.

In a previous memorandum to the Cabinet on the sugar-rice barter, Vice-President Garcia said that the sugar exporters had expressed willingness to distribute the bartered rice only in the provinces where the sugar came from and at prices under government control.

Upon recommendation of the Cabinet, the President directed that all available stocks, including those in transit, of galvanized iron sheets, cement, steel sheets and steel bars, and water pipes belonging to the Cebu Portland Cement Company, the National Shipyards and Steel Corporation, and the National Marketing Corporation, be placed immediately at the disposal of the Department of Public Works and Communications to be used for Public works projects. This step was taken in order to give priority to the Administration’s public works program, especially in its rural development projects such as the construction of irrigation systems, roads, school houses, and other public buildings.

The Cabinet directed that all requests for any of these items coming from contractors of government projects should be coursed through the public works secretary for verification and approval. The managers of the three corporations were requested to submit a list of their available stocks to the public works secretary.

President Magsaysay and the Cabinet heard the presidential rural task force chairman, Jose M. Crisol, report on his inspection trips to Altavas, Capiz, and to Virac and Bato, Catanduanes.

Crisol said that it was true that the four pre-fabricated school house units distributed in the barrios of Guisi, Dalipdip, Lahug, and Guinasayan in Altavas, which had been received last August, were in a deteriorating condition, with the 77 bags of cement for each unit completely spoiled. He said the units had been dumped on the roadside and left to the mercy of rains and typhoons. They were never put up, according to the findings of Crisol, because of the indifference of the parent-teachers associations which were waiting for the district engineer or the industrial supervisor to help them put up the school houses. It was the understanding in the distribution of these pre-fabricated school houses that the PTA's should supply the labor as their counterpart in the project. Each school house cost at least P8,000 including transportation.

Crisol also said that the town of Altavas, which has 11,000 inhabitants, has two community health centers without a doctor or mid-wife, except one nurse. He visited Altavas last Monday.

Reporting on his inspection trip to Catanduanes last Tuesday, Crisol said that work on irrigation project No. 2 in Virac had bogged down. He said that out of P50,000 released for the project, P37,000 had been actually spent but the balance of P13,000 had been spent for salaries of personnel in Naga City, while laborers in Virac had not been paid owing to red tape.

Crisol recommended that the irrigation projects chief at Naga City be directed to release funds to the treasurer of Virac to avoid red tape and to transfer the administration of the irrigation project to the district engineer of Catanduanes. He explained that owing to administrative red tape the hydroelectric power plant in Virac could not start supplying power to the towns of Virac and Bato because of a standing order of the National Power Corporation not to touch the installation until inspected by one of the engineers of the NPC who up to the present had not gone to the place.

He added that the sum of more than P15,000 was added to make the plant fully operable. The President immediately called NPC General Manager Filemon Zablan and told him to send an engineer immediately.

Crisol said that the waterworks project in Virac was also being delayed owing to the late arrival of water pipes. He said that of the 6,000 pipes ordered, only 900 have arrived so far. He recommended that the NWSA send immediately the remaining pipes.

Regarding health conditions in the region, Crisol said that Virac had a hospital with a capacity of 29 beds, but it lacked plumbing and electric facilities. He requested that the amount of P9,000 from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office be sent to complete the facilities.

The President said he was glad to hear Crisol's report because it enabled him to know why some of the Administration's rural development projects were being delayed. He immediately took steps to remedy the situation.

AFTER the Cabinet meeting, the President met a delegation from Baguio City headed by Rafael Coilan. The delegation which was composed mostly of natives requested the President that they be represented in the membership of the Baguio City council. The President said he would study their request.

The President this afternoon ordered the Constabulary to impose a 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. curfew at the Hacienda Luisita to prevent cane-burning and other acts of vandalism at the strike site. He also ordered the investigation and, if necessary, the prosecution of persons allegedly collecting money from the plantation laborers on false representations.

The President issued these directives when 300 non-striking workers of Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac belonging to the Hacienda Luisita Labor Union (HALULU) saw him to complain that some men were going around at night among the non-striking laborers fomenting intrigues and unrest. The workers also denounced recent cases of cane-burning.

The President told the laborers he did not have the facts regarding the burning of cane and was not in a position to say who was responsible. He pointed out, however, that in this situation it was easy for all the parties involved in the

strike to try to place the blame on each other so as to expose their enemies to public indignation and perhaps punitive action by the authorities. The President said this situation was thus fraught with danger and did not contribute to peace and order in the strike area.

The President further speculated that the fires may not have been started by anyone connected with the hacienda but by “outsiders” who were interested only in fomenting unrest and provoking bloodshed in the strike area.

To avert possible outbreaks, the President said he was ordering the PC to impose a 12-hour curfew at the strike site.

The President was also told that some persons identifying themselves as representatives of the Tenants and Farmers Association were collecting money from them ranging from P2.50 to P50 as deposits for “buying lands.” These collectors allegedly promised that the hacienda would be expropriated.

The President was angered by the report and told the workers not to pay a single centavo to anyone. He said he will direct the PC to investigate and if warranted to file the necessary court charges against those found to be racketeering. He told Malacañang Legal Adviser Judge Salvador Esguerra to study the case to determine what charges may lie against the culprits.

Asked by the laborers whether they should continue working in the face of the strike, the President told them that was a decision they alone could make and that he did not wish to interfere. Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevoso, who was present, told him the Court of Industrial Relations was holding hearings on the strike.

The President told the workers, however, that if they decided to remain at work they should reject the right of the striking workers to picket peacefully. He said the PC was under rigid instructions to protect that right. He said the PC was being guided in this undertaking by the rules drawn up by Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason for the guidance of law-enforcement officers in strikes.

The President also urged both striking and non-striking workers to desist from burning cane because this was a lawless act. He said no one could gain from arson.

The non-striking laborers were received by the President at the reception hall before he went to Marikina, Rizal. The HALULU members, headed by Nicomedes Romeo, president, carried several placards one of which read: “We are for free unionism but against Communism.” They told the President they were already working.

President Magsaysay today ordered a census taken of all pre-fabricated school houses already delivered to various communities to determine how many have been erected and to prevent wastage of those that have been neglected or abandoned.

The President issued the order after motoring to Marikina, Rizal, to inspect the construction of a two-room school building out of “lupa bricks” or “soil-blocks,” a new cheap material which may mean large savings in construction costs.

The President ordered the census to prevent repetition of what happened in Capiz, where four pre-fabs were discovered to be rotting after they had been neglected after delivery. Col. Antonio Chanco, chief of the corps of engineers of the Armed Forces who was with the President on the visit to Marikina, expressed concern that the same thing may be happening in other places.

The President, upon returning to Malacañang, immediately got in touch with Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., and told him to wire all division superintendents of schools to canvass their respective localities on the pre-fab situation. The Chief Executive said all pre-fabs found neglected or abandoned will be immediately retrieved and transferred to communities willing to set them up.

Under the pre-fab program the Armed Forces takes charge of delivering the unit to the port nearest the community to which it had been allocated. The district engineer then transports it to the community. At the site, the Bureau of Public Schools takes over the responsibility of setting it up, through cooperative effort on the part of the community residents. The school official may call upon the district engineer for technical advice and assistance in erecting the unit.

The President told Hernandez to submit his report not later than this Saturday. He stressed that he wanted no further wastage of pre-fab units.

Accompanied by Press Secretary J. V. Cruz, Manila Railroad General Manager Salvador Villa, and Chanco, the President left Malacañang at 4:30 p.m. and drove directly to the soil-block construction site where he was welcomed by Brig. Gen. Alfonso Arellano, acting AFP chief of staff, and engineer corps officers and personnel.

The President looked over the brick-forming machine in which damp sand deposits were shaped and compressed into compact blocks. These blocks later were cured before actual use.

Col. Chanco said the soil blocks cost about eight centavos each as compared to the cost of hollow blocks which ranged from 20 to 25 centavos each. He said another economy feature of the former was that it used only a 10 per cent mixture of cement as against 12 per cent for hollow blocks.

The President was shown an experimental two-room school house being put up with soil-blocks. He learned the school house was estimated to cost P3,500.

The President told Chanco to observe closely the durability and other performance features of the soil-blocks and, if these were satisfactory, to study whether they could be used for low-cost housing construction. He left Marikina at 5:15 p.m. and arrived in Malacañang at 5:30 p.m.

January 26.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay announced today that he would lift the curfew he had imposed on the strike-bound Hacienda Luisita in San Miguel, Tarlac, as soon as the burning of canefields and other acts of violence had ceased. He expressed his eagerness to restore the rights of the people living in the locality. He said he had to take the stern measure of temporarily imposing curfew in his desire to prevent possible bloodshed and the needless destruction of property in the hacienda.

THE President received callers from 9 a.m., to 12:30 p.m. He received Reuben Levy, vice-president of the Leo Pharmaceuticals, Inc., of California, U.S.A., who presented him with anti-biotic drugs worth P7,000, as his firm's contribution to the Government's rural health program. Levy was accompanied by Luis Araneta and Jose Rodriguez of the Philippine-American Drug Company, exclusive local agents of Leo Pharmaceuticals.

New officers of the Producers and Exporters Association of the Philippines called on the President to pay their respects following their recent election. During their call, the President administered their oaths of office. Inducted were Gaudencio E. Antonio, president; Mrs. Adela S. Gutierrez, second vice-president; Brigido R. Valencia, third vice-president; Amado S. Lansang, secretary; Gaudencio S. Mañalac, treasurer; Santiago Yap, Jesus Roa, and Dominador Ramos, directors.

Members of a Burmese trade mission now in Manila to confer with local officials on the promotion of closer trade relations between this country and theirs also called to pay their respects. Accompanied by Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez, the missionaries were U Thet Su, chairman of the economic planning commission of Burma, and U Ko Ko Gyi, general manager of the state agricultural marketing board at Rangoon.

A delegation of farmers from Dingalan, Baler, Quezon, sought the expropriation of 35,000 hectares of land allegedly abandoned by its owners during the Japanese occupation and subsequently occupied by some 200 families which had been working on it ever since. Accompanied by Rep. Manuel Enverga of Quezon, the group requested its subdivision and distribution to present occupants.

Another delegation of farmers from Tagkawayan, Quezon, requested that a tract of cleared forest land be declared agricultural land and that it be subdivided and distributed among 90 families which had been cultivating it since 1941.

Rep. Serafin Salvador accompanied a delegation from Angono, Rizal, which presented a petition seeking the President's intervention against a private homesite owner who was allegedly charging homeowners P20 per square meter. The delegation said in their petition that the landowner threatened them with eviction if they refused to accede to the exorbitant price set by him.

Other delegations were those from San Pablo City composed of councilors accompanied by Rep. Jacobo Gonzales; from Nueva Vizcaya, accompanied by Rep. Leonardo Perez and Gov. Jose Espino; from Paombong and Hagonoy, Bulacan, headed by Mayor Magno Gatchalian and Amado B. Reyes; and from Malabon, Rizal, headed by Gabriel Garcia.

Among individual callers were Sen. Roseller T. Lim; Reps. Jose Corpuz of Nueva Ecija and Leon Guinto, Jr., of Quezon; Govs. Juan Frivaldo of Sorsogon, Bernardo Gapuz of La Union, Bienvenido Ebarle of Zamboanga del Sur, Valeriano Gatuslao of Negros Occidental, and Alejandro Almendras of Davao; Mayor Leroy S. Brown of Basilan City; and former Gov. Jose B. Lingad of Pampanga.

January 27.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today discussed several measures designed to make the Philippines more than self-sufficient in rice with members of the Federation of Filipino Rice and Corn Millers, Inc., at the convention of the federation at the Manila Hotel.

The President emphasized before the rice and corn millers that one of the main policies of his administration was to make the country more than self-sufficient in rice. He assured the rice and corn millers that he would take up the implementation of the necessary measures with the heads of the government agencies concerned

Among the measures agreed upon by the President, who conducted an open forum instead of delivering a speech, and the millers are the following:

- (1) Reduced interest on the ACCFA loans to farmers;
- (2) Granting of loans by the NARIC to the millers for buying palay so that the rice mills can be utilized the whole year through;
- (3) Priority to be given to the rice millers in the distribution of Ambuklao power for their electric-powered motors;
- (4) Creation of a committee from among the members of the federation to study ways of improving rice mills;
- (5) Enactment of a bill providing an equal gradual fixed tax on rice and corn mills instead of the percentage tax of two per cent now being charged on them;
- (6) Extension to one year or six months of the loans on rice quedans in bonded warehouses operated by bonded warehousemen or rice millers; and
- (7) Elimination of middlemen in the marketing of rice and corn.

The President also authorized Col. Jacinto Gavino, acting NARIC manager, to use Navy LSTs in the distribution of palay and corn to millers in the South. Also promised by the President to the rice millers was the early distribution of land titles to the Buenavista farmers.

The rice millers also brought to the attention of the President, who was applauded several times in the course of the open forum, the existence of government-owned warehouses in Dagupan City which they could use in transporting

rice to Manila via the Manila Railroad Co. The President assured the millers that the warehouses in Dagupan City would be improved and leased to them.

The Chief Executive was accompanied to the Manila Hotel by former Governor Dominador Mangubat of Cavite, who is a member of the federation. The President arrived at the Manila Hotel about 10:30 a.m. and left before noon.

EARLIER, President Magsaysay took up the mechanization phase of his projected big scale cultivation of cotton in Cotabato and other parts of the country in a conference with International Harvester Company executives. The officials were Jack L. Camp, vice-president of International Harvester Export Company of Chicago, Illinois, U. S. A., and Paul Wood, president of the International Harvester Company of the Philippines.

Camp arrived in Manila this week in the course of a tour of the Pacific area visiting Harvester installations in Japan, India, Australia, and here. He made the call on the President accompanied by Paul Wood and Mariano del Rosario of the Del Rosario Brothers, Inc.

The Harvester executives offered full cooperation with the President in providing technical assistance and any power equipment needed for the cotton projects. The President inquired into Harvester's mechanical cotton picker and stripper. The Harvester officials said the McCormick cotton picker and stripper is used extensively in the United States and South American cotton plantations where there is shortage of labor. The machine is now standard equipment on many cotton plantations in various parts of the world, they added.

Camp, together with Wood, will start a three-day tour of Harvester's installations in the provinces Monday. Camp is scheduled to leave for India, Australia, and neighboring Asian countries on February 5.

Another American businessman received by the President was William Washerman, who discussed the establishment of a floating mobile canning factory of his company here. Washerman came with a Filipino businessman, Bartolome San Diego, who will buy the fishing boats for the canning factory. They were accompanied by NAMARCO Manager Manuel "Dindo" Gonzalez.

The President also received Reps. Celestino Juan of Nueva Ecija, Ramon Mitra of Mountain Prov., and Daniel Romualdez of Leyte; Govs. Bado Dangwa of Mountain Province and Amado Aleta of Nueva Ecija; Undersecretary of National Defense Jose M. Crisol; and Customs Commissioner Manuel P. Manahan.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this day authorized Customs Commissioner Manuel P. Manahan to sell by public bidding the confiscated garlic of Rep. Ombra Amilbangsa of Sulu. Proceeds from the sale will be held in trust pending the outcome of the seizure case in court.

The sale of the garlic, which is about 170 tons, or 170,000 kilos, was ordered by the President in accordance with law and to prevent it from spoiling.

The President also signed Administrative Order No. 176, requiring certain public officials to submit to the Agricultural Economics Division of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources answers to its periodic and special inquiries regarding local agriculture in its various aspects, especially in connection with economic situations, food supply, food and other crops, and livestock and livestock products.

Enjoined by the administrative order to answer promptly the periodic and special inquiries of the division are the following:

- (1) Fieldmen of the Bureau of Agricultural Extension, district agriculturists, city agriculturists, provincial agriculturists, municipal agriculturists, home demonstrators, and district 4-H club leaders;

- (2) Fieldmen of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Bureau of Plant Industry, Bureau of Soil Conservation, Bureau of Fisheries, and Weather Bureau;

- (3) Leading municipal officials like the mayor, the treasurer, and agents of the Bureau of Internal Revenue;
- (4) The district supervising teachers and head teachers of towns and barrios;
- (5) Provincial officials like the governor and the treasurer;
- (6) Bureau of Commerce fieldmen and commercial agents;
- (7) Leading officials of Philippine National Bank agencies and branch offices;
- (8) Fieldmen of different government corporations or agencies having to do with the development of agricultural industries and with the processing and distribution of agricultural products; and
- (9) Social workers under the Social Welfare Administration.

THE President also directed General Manager Filemon M. Zablan of the National Power Corporation to go ahead with the construction of the second unit of the Ambuklao power project in Binga, 18 kilometers below the Ambuklao site.

The President flashed the green light for the P74 million project with the intention of allocating the power that it will provide to the northern Luzon provinces. Construction is expected to take two years.

The dollar requirements of the plant will be loaned by the Export-Import Bank.

THE President today told Malacañang Legal Adviser Prof. Enrique Fernando to look into the charges presented against General Manager Manuel Turingan of the Philippine Tobacco Administration and determine immediately whether a *prima facie* case existed to warrant his suspension pending a full inquiry.

Turingan has been accused, among other things, of incompetence, immorality, and misappropriation of public funds. The President ordered that if a *prima facie* case lay against him, he be suspended immediately pending a full investigation.

IN order to pull prices down, the President today:

- (1) Directed the Central Bank to allocate the maximum dollars possible for the importation of highly essential commodities; and
- (2) Gave final approval to NAMARCO importations of foodstuffs worth \$4 million.

In a conference with CB Monetary Board Member Dean Vicente Sinco, the President asked him to impart to the Monetary Board his desire that the importation of highly essential commodities be given as much dollars as possible in order to pull down prices. The President also directed further cuts in dollar allocations for luxuries and non-essentials

The President told the board through Sinco to make a list of the most essential commodities, such as foodstuffs, drugs and medicine, and clothing for the low-income groups, and to allocate to these the maximum dollars possible for immediate importation. At the same time the President instructed that dollars for non-essential commodities be reduced further.

In another conference with NAMARCO General Manager Manuel J. Gonzalez, the President stamped final approval on the NAMARCO papers to import \$4 million worth of foodstuffs primarily for the low-income groups. The foodstuffs include such items as milk, sardines, corned beef, salmon, arrived in 25 days.

Upon receiving the Chief Executive's approval, Gonzalez immediately placed the NAMARCO orders for these foodstuffs. They are expected to arrive in 25 days.

January 28.—THIS morning, the President conferred at Malacañang with Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff; Commodore Jose M. Francisco, Navy chief; and Brig. Gen. Pelagio Cruz Air Force chief, who had just returned from the military advisers conference of SEATO nations in Melbourne, Australia.

Reporting on the results of the conference, Lieut. Gen. Vargas informed the President that it "strengthened very much the effectiveness of the defense and security of the treaty nations in this area."

Gen. Vargas characterized the recent confab as "fruitful." He said staff planners from all eight SEATO nations studied and discussed extensively various aspects of area defense and security, including intelligence, logistics, psychological action, counter-subversion, standardization of procedures and techniques, and combined military exercises to be undertaken by the treaty nations.

Gen. Vargas disclosed that plans agreed upon at the conference will be embodied in a report to be submitted to the council of ministers scheduled to meet in Karachi sometime in March. He also praised the Australian people for the warm hospitality accorded the Philippine military delegation during the two weeks of its stay there.

The President congratulated the delegation for their contribution to the conference. He said he had sent the best military planners to represent this country because of the importance of the confab to the over-all security of peace-loving nations in this part of the world.

The Chief Executive this morning also received a delegation from the United Luisita Workers' Union, the strikers at the Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac, which called to present their side in the labor controversy. Inocencio Barrientos, vice-president of the ULWU, protested against Constabulary soldiers in the locality who allegedly were unduly interfering with the strike.

The President promptly called up Brig. Gen. Manuel Cabal, PC chief, and asked him to change the detachment assigned in the hacienda with fresh troops. He also promised to invite to Malacañang representatives of the hacienda management early next week and explore ways of effecting an early settlement of the controversy.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning motored to Pila-pila, Binangonan, Rizal, and inspected three irrigation pumps recently installed by a private individual for the use of all the farmers in his barrio.

Gratified by the thoughtfulness of the individual, the President told Paulino Aralar of barrio Pila-pila at whose expense the pumps had been installed: "It is civic-spirited citizens like you whom this country needs today. I hope others will follow your example."

"I was inspired by your intense desire to help the people in the barrio, Mr. President," Aralar replied. "I am only trying to do my part as a private citizen to help in your rural development program."

Aralar had put three four-inch irrigation pumps to service about 80 hectares of ricelands, only 20 hectares of which belonged to him. With the irrigation system, farmers in the locality expect to double their yield, as they would be able to grow rice the whole year round.

Accompanied by Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently secretary of foreign affairs, who had called to consult him on pending matters, the President left Malacañang for Binangonan shortly before 10 a.m., using the vice-presidential car bearing Plate No. 2.

After motoring through long stretches of dusty, bumpy roads, and later hiking across muddy rice paddies under the heat of the noonday sun, the President arrived at the irrigation site in barrio Pila-pila about 11 a.m. There he was

joined by Gov. Isidro S. Rodriguez, Binangonan Mayor Casimiro Ynares, and other provincial and municipal officials.

The President spent about half an hour inspecting the installations and going around the ricefields which would be serviced by the new pumps. He was gratified to find that the pumps drew water from the Laguna de Bay, thus assuring water supply throughout the year.

The President also conferred with C. R. de la Paz, president and general manager of the Industrial Equipment Company, and technicians from the ICA and the irrigation division of the Bureau of Public Works who assisted in the installation of the pumps. He discussed with them his plans to cover the entire Central Luzon area with similar irrigation units to increase the nation's yearly rice production and attain self-sufficiency in this staple commodity.

The President returned to Malacañang shortly before 1 p.m.

IN the evening, President Magsaysay exhorted the delegates to the first Southeast Asia-Western Pacific regional meeting of the International Medical Women's Association to study thoroughly the problems confronting maternal and child health.

The development of a country, he said, "depends in a large measure on the health of its citizens."

The President addressed the delegates at the Manila Hotel on the first day of their conference. He said the association honored the Philippines by holding its first regional meeting here.

"This honor is a recognition of the ability of our medical women's association in particular and of the women doctors in Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific area in general," he said.

He cited Dr. Ada Chree Reid, past president, of the organization, and Dr. Elsie L'Esperance, founder of the famous Strange Clinic for Cancer Detection in the United States.

"Certainly," he said, "they are two of the most distinguished women medical practitioners in the world today." (Watch for the next issue of the *Gazette*, for the complete text of the President's speech.)

January 29.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today ordered that henceforth only those commodities which the government, through its proper agencies, considers urgent and essential in insuring normal levels in the cost of living, should be imported under the no-dollar law and under existing barter trade agreements. He further directed that such imported commodities should be disposed of through the NAMARCO after paying the barter-exporters a price allowing reasonable profit.

This presidential order was issued to the secretary of commerce and industry, the CB Monetary Board, and the import-export committee of the Central Bank during a five-hour conference in Malacañang starting from 9 a.m., through luncheon up to 2 p.m. The order was thoroughly discussed with members of the Monetary Board, officials of the Central Bank, and the NAMARCO general manager.

Present at the conference were PNB President Arsenio J. Jison, RFC Chairman Eduardo Z. Romualdez, Dean Vicente Sinco, Dr. Amando Dalisay, and Jamie Velasquez, all members of the Monetary Board; Nicanor Tomas, CB superintendent of banks; CB Special Assistant Gregorio S. Licaros, in charge of imports; CB Assistant R. Marino Corpus, in charge of exports; and NAMARCO General Manager Manuel J. Gonzalez. Also present was Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, presidential overall performance officer. Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, who is in the province, and Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, who is in the United States, could not attend the conference.

In the course of the conference, President Magsaysay also directed the Central Bank to:

- (1) Prune dollar allocations for travel, granting dollars only in cases which are official and necessary;
- (2) Freeze temporarily dollar allocations to new industries for importation of raw materials, pending the government's study of the foreign exchange situation of the country;
- (3) Continue the government policy of much reduced dollar allocations for non-essentials and luxuries; and
- (4) Reduce all dollar allocations for imported goods which are being produced locally.

The President revealed during the conference that he planned to discuss with the Cabinet, the Monetary Board, and the National Economic Council a plan to allow the granting on a *pro-rata* basis, of dollar allocations for non-essential and luxury items, to legitimate producers. The plan aims to encourage legitimate producers to increase their production by means of affording them lower costs through profits in the sale of luxury goods.

The Malacañang spokesman said that the presidential directives were primarily intended to stabilize prices, stimulate production of local commodities, increase exports, and conserve, if not increase, the country's dollar reserves.

The President directed the members of the import-export committee headed by Dean Sinco, with Messrs. Licaros, Corpus, and Mrs. Fanny Garcia (director of economic research of the CB), as members, and NAMARCO General Manager Gonzalez to meet Monday, January 30, to start the implementation of the directive and to work out the mechanics of its operation.

The President said that one of the functions of this committee would be to coordinate the work of the no-dollar export office with that of the Central Bank so that the amount of the commodities to be imported into the country through the no-dollar import process would be deducted from what would be allowed by the Central Bank in the allocation of dollars for these commodities. The President pointed out that in this manner dollar allocations would be lessened by the corresponding equivalent of the goods imported through barter.

The Chief Executive stressed to the committee that it should examine the list of the goods to be bartered, allowing only those which are urgent and essential in insuring normal levels in the cost of living.

President Magsaysay stressed that dollar allocations for travel should be pared to the minimum, allowing only those travels which are official and very necessary. He said he was receiving reports to the effect that some travelers were abusing the privilege of going abroad, some of them making three trips a month to nearby places like Hongkong, B.C.C. He said that in these trips abroad the travelers spent dollars in purchases and at the same time generated the growth of the dollar blackmarket. In this connection, Dean Sinco suggested that even in official conferences abroad only the necessary personnel should be allowed to go on the trips.

It was believed at the conference that there was need to re-examine the policy regarding filling the dollar requirements of new industries. It was the consensus that dollar allocations for raw materials needed by new industries be temporarily stopped until the foreign exchange situation has cleared up. It was further believed that those industries which could use local materials should be encouraged. In this connection Mr. Licaros said that approximately \$100 million had been issued last year in dollar allocations for raw materials needed by new industries.

The President stood firm in his order to effect drastic cuts in dollar allocations for luxury items. He was informed that last year \$18 million had been issued for the importation of luxuries. However, he was informed that the Central Bank had already increased its cuts on luxury allocations by 75 per cent.

The President also pointed out that less dollar allocations be given for the importation of articles and commodities which were already being manufactured in the country.

The President said that he was going to confer regularly with this group once a week. He said he would like to hear from the members the progress that would be achieved in working out the means of stabilizing prices, stimulating production and exportation of commodities, and increasing the dollar reserves.

FOR a brief moment during the conference, the President went to his study room and received Chinese General Lu Tek Chiao, member of the Labor Insurance Committee of the Taiwan provincial government who is on an inspection tour of several countries around the world. Lu said that Free China admired the effective measures taken by the President in the campaign against the Huks.

He was accompanied to Malacañang by Lt. Col. Chen Ping-Ching, military attache of the Chinese embassy; Col. Carlos Vergel de Dios; and Mr. Co, an interpreter.

The President also briefly received Pangasinan Gov. Conrado Estrella, who took up with the President affairs of his province.

IN the afternoon, after a brief rest, the President worked on state papers.

January 30.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today administered the oath of office to the five members of the Science Advisory Committee. The committee's main function is to foster more interest in scientific research and development as advocated by the President in his state-of-the-nation speech. The committee was created by the President through Executive Order No. 141.

Inducted by the President were Drs. M. V. Arguelles, chairman; and Juan Salcedo, Jr., Vidal A. Tan, Eduardo Quisumbing, and Ramon R. Angeles, members. After their induction, the committee members said they aimed to coordinate all scientific researches and activities for more effective results in pursuance of the government's economic program.

The committee members also announced that they will give priority to the following projects:

- (1) Creation of a committee on scientific research and development in both houses of Congress;
- (2) Study of the different surveys of scientific research activities and development and the recommendation of proper budgetary appropriations;
- (3) Creation of science attaches in the principal Philippine embassies and legations abroad; and
- (4) Granting of scholarships here and abroad for specially gifted citizens devoted to science.

THE President spent the whole morning receiving callers from the provinces and abroad. After breakfast, he met a delegation from Sulu led by Gov. Leon Fernandez and Mayor Hadji Arasad Sali of Jolo. The Sulu delegation requested aid for public works projects.

Before inducting the committee members, the President received a delegation of provincial officials from Pampanga and Tarlac who invited him to be the principal speaker at the celebration of the late Justice Jose Abad Santos' birthday on February 19. The provincial officials were led by Gov. Rafael Lazatin of Pampanga and Gov. Arsenio Lugay and Rep. Constancio Castañeda of Tarlac.

Another group of callers the President received was the Supreme Council of the Knights of Rizal. The members, through their supreme commander, H. B. Reyes, asked the President for a lot where they could build headquarters to house Rizaliana materials. The President told Prof Vicente Lontok, Malacañang technical adviser and deputy commander of the Knights of Rizal, to study the request.

Members of the Asian Good Neighbor Relations Commission were also received by the President. The commission members, Eugenio Puyat, Miss Helen Benitez, Claudio Teehankee, Mariano de los Santos, and Modesto Farolan, sought aid from the President for their projects.

Rep. Eulogio Rodriguez, Jr., of Rizal accompanied a delegation from Taguig, Rizal, headed by Mayor Monico Tanyag. The delegation also requested financial aid for their water system.

Another provincial delegation which sought aid from the President came from Tayabas, Quezon, accompanied by Rep. Manuel Enverga. Rep. Apolinario Apacible and ex-Gov. Antonio Noble of Batangas also accompanied a delegation from Taal, Batangas. They also asked for aid for their barrio roads and electric lighting facilities.

Sen. Alejo Mabanag, Rep. Manuel Cases, and Gov. Bernardo Gapuz also headed a big delegation from La Union, composed mostly of municipal mayors and farmers who asked for completion or construction of irrigation projects.

Mayors who saw the President with their councilors to seek aid for barrio roads, artesian wells, and market buildings were Juan Espino of Pulilan, Bulacan; Marcial Punzalan of Tiaong, Quezon; and Pedro S. Tolentino of Batangas, Batangas.

Rep. Leonardo Perez of Nueva Vizcaya accompanied a delegation from the town of Cayapa which sought the lifting of Philippine Constabulary control over the municipality. Mayor Castillo Tidang of Cayapa told the President that the charges against him and his police force were "false." The President assured the delegation that he would order an impartial investigation of the situation in the town.

A group of CPA flunkers also had an audience with the President and petitioned him to look into their complaint. The CPA flunkers claimed that 75 per cent of the candidates flunked in all the subjects given in the examination. The President told the petitioners that he would discuss their case with the board of CPA examiners.

Mrs. John Allen Carpenter, mother-in-law of Adlai Stevenson, 1952 Democratic Party presidential candidate, paid a courtesy call on the President. She was accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Goodhue and Mrs. Albert Ravenholt.

Andre de la Varre and Kurt Jetmar of Warner Bros. also called on the President and told him that they were doing a documentary film on the Philippines for world-wide release. The President told de la Varre and Jetmar, both of whom are Warner Bros. cameramen, that he would send an Army officer to help them around the country.

Albert Fisk, Chicago businessman and lawyer, also called on the President to discuss his plan to establish a business firm here. Ruth Dos Santos, editor of Brazil's *La Arriba*, was another caller of the President.

Mrs. Primitiva Reyes, a Filipina residing in Stockton, California, also saw the President and told him about the plan of some California Filipinos to establish a tomato canning factory here. Mrs. Reyes was accompanied by Atty. Demetrio Belmonte.

Other callers of the President included Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno; Sens. Francisco Delgado and Francisco Rodrigo; and Reps. Emilio Cortez of Pampanga, Felipe Garduque of Cagayan, and Gaudencio Abordo of Palawan.

For further clarification of the decisions reached at the Malacañang conference yesterday among President Magsaysay, members of the Monetary Board, and CB officials, Malacañang reemphasized today that:

(1) Barter imports under the no-dollar imports law (Act 1410) and existing barter arrangements will be restricted to commodities considered urgent and essential by the NAMARCO for purposes of insuring normal cost of living levels. Such imports will be disposed of through NAMARCO, allowing a reasonable profit to the producers.

(2) As an incentive to increased production by exporters-producers, importation of non-essential goods will gradually be correlated with barter imports under the non-dollar import law, with coordination between the exporters-producers and importers of such non-essential goods to be effected through a clearing-house to be established for this purpose.

(3) With respect to existing new industries, the CB will continue processing raw material requirements. As regards the establishment of new industries, the CB will be guided by the President's state-of-the-nation message in that it will consider only those industries that will utilize local raw materials.

Malacañang also released the text of instructions sent to the secretary of commerce and industries directing that proportionate rights be given to "D" sugar producers to barter their "D" sugar under the non-dollar imports law.

The President today ordered the lifting of the curfew hours in the strike areas in Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac following reports that the area has returned to normalcy and is generally peaceful.

THE President also signed Executive Order No. 162, extending the ban on the slaughter of carabaos for a period of six months. The new order prohibiting the slaughter of carabaos will commence on January 31 and will last for six months.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this afternoon inspected the progress of the construction on the feeder road in barrio Nagpandayan, Guimba, Nueva Ecija, being built on a self-help basis by the barrio people.

Praising the barrio people for their civic spiritedness and sympathizing with their efforts, the President made an on-the-spot release of P6,000 for the construction of the bridge necessary in completing the feeder road to reach the school house about 1.6 kilometers away.

In the course of his extemporaneous speech in Ilocano, the President stressed the Administration's policy of giving top priority attention to the needs of the barrios and the rural population. He said that whereas past administrations did not give due importance to the development of the rural areas, the present Administration was making it its first business to improve the living conditions of the barrio people.

The President was roundly applauded by hundreds of barrio folk who heard the President speak on an improvised platform made of planks of wood placed on empty drums.

The President flew on a Cessna plane to barrio Baloc, Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija, arriving there at past 2 p.m. He was accompanied on the plane by Reps. Jose Corpuz and Celestino Juan of Nueva Ecija and a presidential aide, Maj. Jose Estrella. Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez and Pangasinan Gov. Conrado Estrella rode on another Cessna plane. The presidential party was met at the Baloc airstrip by Nueva Ecija officials headed by Gov. Amado Aleta and Mayor Virgilio Galica of Guimba.

The presidential party motored from barrio Baloc to barrio Nagpandayan, a distance of about 10 kilometers.

The President was introduced by Gov. Aleta. After hearing the needs of the people, the President said he would authorize the release of P2 million for the construction of the Calinat irrigation project which would supply water to Guimba and neighboring areas. The President told Engineer Ople to request immediately the Department of Public Works to send a party to start the survey work. He also granted the request for three pre-fabricated school houses and three Liberty wells for the barrios of Catimon, Tabing Ilog, and Nagpandayan.

The President announced that he would order Chairman Manuel E. Castañeda of the Land Tenure Administration to study immediately the possibility of expropriating the hacienda in Guimba where hundreds of tenants are working. This was in response to the desire of the tenants to have the hacienda bought by the Government. The President said, "Nothing can make me happier than to see that each one of you will become the owner of your own land in the near future."

After his speech the President swore in Mayors Dick Ramos of Cuyapo and Dario Santos of Muñoz, former Liberals, into the Nacionalista Party. Two other councilors also took their oath. The President spoke from 3:05 p.m. up to about 3:30 p.m. and received hearty applause from the barrio people.

THE President returned to Manila aboard his Cessna plane, taking off from barrio Baloc at about 4 p.m.

January 31.—AS PART of his public relations while Congress is in session, the President gave a breakfast conference this morning for Congress reporters. He told the press conference that production is the “guidepost” of what he calls his “down-to-earth” economic program.

The President reiterated his plans for an intensified production as he spiked charges of some congressmen that his administration was wanting in economic plans.

Although he did not mention names, the President took to task Rep. Mario Bengson (N–Pangasinan), who castigated the President for not having an economic program, at the second day of the current session of Congress.

“It is incorrect to say that we lack an economic plan. We have such a plan and its provisions are a matter of public knowledge and general approval,” the President said.

The President also said at the press conference that:

- (1) He is in favor of the gradual application of the performance-type of budgeting;
- (2) He will slash the recommended appropriations for the 1956–57 budget;
- (3) He will pour more funds to the Farmers Cooperative Marketing Associations to drive away middlemen in the sale of the products of local farmers; and
- (4) The dollar reserves in the Central Bank are at a safe level.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay issued the following written statement after the press conference:

“It is incorrect to say that we lack an economic plan. We have such plan and its provisions are a matter of public knowledge and general approval. Our nation’s economic problems have been carefully analyzed, solutions have been determined, and our course of action clearly charted. We have set into motion the intricate machinery of implementation which our technicians have developed for the attainment of our objectives.

“We know, for example, that we must increase and diversify our production; that we must develop industries with priority to those which afford maximum employment of manpower and increasing utilization of domestic raw materials; that we must expand existing markets and develop new ones; that we must tap idle natural resources for which profitable markets are known. We know in great detail how these and many allied objectives can be accomplished and we are convinced that they can be accomplished with unity and determination.

“Our plans and our action programs have been launched. In the manner of financing them, we are confronted with a number of very important decisions that must now be made. What further inducements are we prepared to give foreign investment? What encouragement and protection can we offer to channel domestic investment more and more into productive enterprises? How far should we go in the matter of public investment?

“These and many other decisions are being made and will continue to be made on the basis of the soundest economic and financial counsel and with the best interests of our people in mind.”

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today received a resolution adopted by a joint conference of the provincial board and municipal mayors of La Union pledging “whole-hearted and unconditional support to his program of administration during the second half of his term and endorsing his re-election in 1957.

Brought to Malacañang by Gov. Bernardo B. Gapuz, the resolution credited the President for having given the people, especially the rural folks, much assistance in the form of “more and better roads and bridges, pre-fabricated school buildings, lands for the landless, peace and security to lives and property, waterworks, irrigation systems, and many other blessings.”

“It is the considered opinion of the provincial governor, the board members, and the mayors of La Union that he is entitled to another four-year lease on Malacañang so that he could continue the work which he has auspiciously began,” the resolution said.

THE President received callers at his study from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Emil Tinde, Philippine featherweight champion, and S. S. Somkiat, challenger from Thailand, called to pay their respects following the signing of the contract for their 12-round titular bout on February 18 at the bullfight arena in the Sunken Gardens. The bout will be the second of a series of benefit fistic cards promoted by Manuel Garcia, promotional manager of the special events division of the Peace and Amelioration Fund Commission.

Victor P. Hernandez, principal of the Araullo High School, headed a delegation from the division of city schools which invited the President to address a national conference of editors of high school papers to be held at the GSP building on Padre Faura on February 19.

House Majority Floor Leader Arturo M. Tolentino accompanied a delegation of the National Master Plumbers Association of the Philippines which sought representation in the government board of examiners for plumbers. With the group was Dr. Osmundo Aguilar, who requested permission to lease the Victoria Gardens in Intramuros for the purpose of converting it into a zoo.

A large group of farmers from Baggao, Cagayan, asked for the expropriation of a 1,000-hectare land for subdivision and distribution to the 300 families presently working the land. The farmers were accompanied by Rep. Felipe Garduque.

Other delegations this morning were those from Sta. Cruz, Pagsanjan, and Lumban, Laguna, headed by Mayors Faustino Marcelo, Quintin Cabrera, and Marcelo Hinojosa; from Misamis Oriental, headed by Gov. Vicente B. de Lara and Rep. Ignacio S. Cruz; from Mataas Na Kahoy, Batangas, headed by Mayor Jose Landicho; from Agno, Pangasinan, headed by Mayor Wilfredo Rosete; and from Palawan, headed by former Gov. Patricio Fernandez.

Among individual callers were Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez; Reps. Panfilo Manguera of Marinduque, Ramon G. Tabiana of Iloilo, Numeriano Babao of Batangas, Manuel Enverga of Quezon, Wenceslao Lagumbay of Laguna, and Angel Castaño of Manila; and Gov. Conrado Estrella of Pangasinan.

MALACAÑANG in the afternoon rolled out its red carpet when President and Mrs. Magsaysay officially received His Royal Highness, Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia.

The Cambodian Prince and his entourage arrived at the Malacañang grounds a little before 5 p.m. and were given military honors by a select group of the Presidential Guards Battalion. After the playing of the Philippine and the Cambodian national anthems, Prince Norodom, accompanied by Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia, ascended the Palace front stairs, followed by his entourage. The Prince was introduced by the Vice-President to President and Mrs. Magsaysay, who were waiting for His Royal Highness at the head of the stairway.

A battery of newspapermen, photographers, and movie men were present to witness the historic meeting between the President of the Philippine Republic and the Cambodian Prince.

Prince Norodom was then led to the long table at the Malacañang reception room, where he signed his name on the register of distinguished Malacañang visitors. The President and his Lady, the Prince, and Vice-President Garcia posed for pictures after the signing of the register. Then the President accompanied Prince Norodom to the Malacañang porch facing the Pasig River, where *merienda* was served. During the *merienda*, the President and his Lady exchanged pleasantries with the Cambodian Prince, talking about the airplane trip to Manila.

The reception accorded the visiting Cambodian Prince was attended by the highest officials of the Republic and their ladies. Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., was among the distinguished guests.

After about 20 minutes, the President led Prince Norodom to his room at the Palace, where he will remain a house guest of the President.

At 8 p.m., President Magsaysay decorated Prince Norodom with the highest decoration accorded foreign heads of state, the Rajah of the Order of Sikatuna.

Later, President and Mrs. Magsaysay gave a state dinner in honor of Prince Norodom.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

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Official Month in Review: February 1956

February 1.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay had breakfast with his house guest, Crown Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia, who slept in the Palace last night

The Cambodian Prince arrived yesterday as the state guest of the country. The Prince and his entourage arrived at Malacañang at 5 p.m. yesterday and were given military honors by the Presidential Guards Battalion. Later, they were entertained at a *merienda*.

Last evening, President and Mrs. Magsaysay gave a state dinner in honor of Prince Norodom. The reception accorded the visiting Cambodian Prince was attended by the highest officials of the Republic and their ladies.

Prince Norodom left for Baguio City after breakfast this morning, accompanied by Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia

AFTER the departure of the Prince, the President summoned his physician, Dr. Jose Corpus, and has his throat examined. The President complained anew of pains in his larynx, throat ailment which afflicted him a few weeks before the last elections.

The President had to cancel appointments with a few callers whom he intended to receive before presiding over the regular meeting of his Cabinet.

FEELING a little relieved later, The President summoned Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona and discussed with him the proposed P800 million budget for the fiscal year 1956-57.

AFTER his conference with Aytona, the President summoned the members of the Cabinet who had already gathered at the Council State room, to the Palace dining room. The Cabinet meeting was held at the dining room from 10:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

President Magsaysay and the Cabinet discussed various measures designed to strengthen the economy of the country. The discussion was touched off by an injury from NEC Chairman Alfredo Montelibano, who asked the President on the policy to be followed in approving the establishment of new industries which, he said, were beginning to be crowded.

The President said that all economic planning and policies should take their cue from 10 “guide-posts” which he had enumerated in his state-of-the-nation message to Congress. He said that henceforth the establishment of only those industries which will use raw materials produced in the Philippines would be encouraged. The President distinguished those new industries to be established from already existing new industries whose raw material requirements, he reiterated, will continue to be processed.

During the Cabinet meeting, the President:

1. Directed Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez to speed up the processing of requests for lumber concessions, and cut all unnecessary red tape.

The Chief Executive said that foreign lumber companies were willing to invest in large-scale lumber cutting and processing which would bring in millions of dollars into the country. He said that Philippine forest resources amounted to some P27 billion. Proper steps should be taken to tap this wealth, he said.

2. Told NEC Chairman Montelibano and Public Works Undersecretary Rafael Contreras that he wanted to have carried out as soon as practicable the rural electrification of the country, especially in Central Luzon.

The President said that he wanted the irrigation systems in Central Luzon to be operate by electric turbines which would prove less costly and more efficient than those run with diesel. He observed that with power and to be

provided by the Ambuklao hydroelectric plant and the new Binga project, widespread use of electricity in Central Luzon will bring about the realization of this plan. He said the rural electrification program about the realization plan. He said the rural electrification program was important to rural development.

3. Approved, upon the recommendation of the Cabinet, the proposed issuance and sale of bond issues under Republic Act No. 1397 as requested by the National Power Corporation:

(a) P15 million to finance the construction of the second unit of the Maria Cristina fertilizer plant; and

(b) P2 million worth of bonds to finance the construction of the Agusan River hydroelectric project in Bukidnon.

4. Told Agriculture Secretary Rodriguez to replenish the fish stocks in many of the country's lakes and rivers in order to increase the country's fish supply. The President told Rodriguez to proceed with the construction of concrete vats where fish could be cultivated and later strewn in the depleted lakes and streams.
5. Directed that loans for the importation of cattle should be processed quickly in order that more and better breeds of cattle could be brought into the country to increase the local bee and dairy supply. He also inquired from Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao about progress in the goat farm in Tawi-Tawi, Sulu. He said that he wanted this goat project to succeed.

During the Cabinet meeting, the President directed that Navy LSTs be sent to stand by near Camiguin Island to evacuate the residents of that island in case the volcano erupts. The President was informed there were signs on imminent eruption of the volcano.

The President also directed acting Social Welfare Administration head, Mrs. Amparo Villamor, to enplane together with NARIC Manager Jacinto Gavino tomorrow morning to look after the flood victims in Compostela, Davao. The President had received reports that the area was still flooded. He said measures should be taken by all government agencies concerned to prevent the outbreak of epidemic in that region.

IN the afternoon, the President stayed in bed, feeling indisposed.

February 2.—FEELING indisposed on account of a recurrent throat ailment, the President cancelled all scheduled callers this day and his scheduled trip today to Vigan, Ilocos Sur, to attend the "Harvest Festival" in celebration of the bountiful results of the tobacco production drive he initiated in Northern Luzon.

The President this morning created a committee to inquire into report in a morning paper alleging the "mysterious disappearance of half a million pesos donated last year to the Social Welfare Administration by the United Nations Appeal for Children and other philanthropic organizations. The committee in composed of Judge Salvador Esguerra, Malacañang legal adviser, as chairman, and Judge Roman Cruz, Malacañang technical assistant, and Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, as members.

AFTER signing the administrative order, the President motored to the V. Luna General Hospital for treatment of his throat.

WHILE resting in bed after coming from the hospital, the President was told that a delegation of bus and jeepney drivers who were on strike had come to Malacañang to present a petition.

The President went out of his bedroom and conferred with the strikers. He appealed to them to resume operations and observe traffic rules and regulations in the interest of pedestrians and the traveling public. He promised them that their petition would be studied by proper authorities and that he would let them know the action to be taken on their petition.

The drivers promised to return to work immediately, pending the study of their petition that drivers caught violating traffic regulations be given three or five days to pay the fine instead of being jailed immediately in case they cannot pay the fine at once.

The drivers denied that they were on strike. They said they had to leave their vehicles because they wanted to come to Malacañang to present their petition to the President personally.

The delegation was headed by Gervacio Valle, president of the Manila Jeepney Drivers Association, and Alfredo Gomez, their legal counsel.

MALACAÑANG reiterated today that the Central Bank will continue processing the raw material requirements of already existing new industries.

The reiteration came in the face of persistent impression in some quarters that the Central Bank will no longer consider the raw material requirements of already existing new industries unless these industries used only native materials.

Press Secretary J.V. Cruz reiterated:

1. That raw material requirements of already existing new industries will continue to be processed.
2. As regards applications to establish new industries, the Central Bank will be guided by the President's state-of-the-nation message in that it will consider only those industries that will utilize local raw materials.

The Malacañang spokesman also took exception to a morning paper editorial alleging that the Administration had abandoned the five-year program launched by President Magsaysay in a Far Eastern University speech in 1954.

"As President Magsaysay said clearly at his press conference Tuesday, January 31," Cruz said, "the Administration has been and is continuing to implement those aspects of that program which have proven themselves practicable. On the other hand, those aspects, which for some reason or other have run into implementation difficulties, are naturally being restudied and revised by the National Economic Council. The President made clear when he launched that program that it would naturally allow for revisions and changes dictated by experience and changing conditions."

February 3.—THE President had breakfast this morning with members of the Colorado (USA) School of Mines Alumni Association who pledged their "wholehearted cooperation in your efforts to develop fully the country's economy." They told the President that he could call on any of them any time he needed their help.

The alumni association members offered their services to the President with respect to the greater utilization of the country's resources. They specifically cited the country's mineral resources which, they said, could be developed for the achievement of the Administration's economic objectives.

The President thanked the mining engineers and said that he may avail of their services in the future.

The alumni group was represented by Servillano U. Aquino, president; Gustave L. Neuman, vice-president; and John R. Kuykendall, secretary-treasurer. The breakfast lasted from 8 to 9 a.m.

STILL feeling indisposed because of a throat ailment which had been bothering him for the last three days, the President decided to board his yacht *Sta. Maria* for a cruise on Manila Bay. His physician had prescribed complete rest for his throat.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay in the evening unequivocally endorsed the CB Monetary Board Policy statement at its regular meeting earlier this afternoon reiterating that "there will be no change in the exchange rate of the Philippine peso in relation to the dollar."

The President issued the statement endorsing the CB policy to spike reports that the Administration is planning to devalue the peso. Confusion on the stability of the peso was generated by news report in a morning paper quoting NEC Chairman Alfredo Montelibano as advocating the unpegging of the peso from the dollar during a congressional hearing yesterday.

Montelibano, in a statement this day, vehemently denied having given the statement. He said he was “misquoted.” He pointed out that he was against the unpegging of the peso from the dollar.

February 4.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay stayed aboard the *Sta. Maria* the whole day this day in compliance with the advice of his physicians to have a complete rest. However, the President was in constant communications with the Palace morning and afternoon.

The President returned to Malacañang in the evening although he was not expected at the Palace until tomorrow morning.

February 5.—THE President woke up early this morning and joined his family in hearing mass at the Malacañang chapel.

After breakfast with his family, the President motored around the city, accompanied by his son, Ramon, Jr.

EVIDENTLY not satisfied with the motor ride around the city, the President later motored to the Nichols Air Base for an air cruise to Zambales. He took off at 9:30 a.m., in his plane *Pagasa*, landing on the San Marcelino airstrip about 40 minutes later. He was accompanied by his brother Jesus and Maj. Jose Estrella, his aide.

After a short stay with his parents in barrio Barin, the President flew back to Manila and was back at the Palace about 12:30 p.m. He had luncheon with his family.

AT 5:45 p.m., the President and the First Lady motored to the Manila Broadcasting Company on Taft Avenue, where they inaugurated the new MBC radio center. They were accompanied by Rafael Yabut, MBC public relations officer. On hand to welcome them were MBC officials headed by Federico Elizalde, MBC president.

Mrs. Magsaysay cut the ceremonial ribbon at the main entrance of the building. Shortly after the inauguration, the President addressed the crowd which witnessed the event. He paid tribute to the “vigorous growth and development” of the local radio industry. He said the radio had “come of age as a moulder of public opinion and distinct influence on the thinking of our people.”

At 8 o'clock in the evening, the President gave an informal dinner in honor of Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia, who was scheduled to return to his country tomorrow morning after a week's visit to the Philippines. The Prince presented the President with the *Grand Croix de l'Ordre Royal du Cambodge*, Cambodia's highest decoration for a foreign chief of state. The dinner was attended by staff members of the Prince.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay was informed today by Manuel Gonzales, general manager of the National Marketing Corporation, of the revocation of distributorship of Herman Jopson, proprietor of the Jopson's Supermarket in Sampaloc, and Arturo Rabano, owner of the Charity Grocery in San Andres, for registering “fictitious sales” in an attempt to cover NAMARCO merchandise they were believed to have channeled to the blackmarket.

A third distributor, Pilar Dominguez, former employee of the NAMARCO, serving retailers in San Juan, was suspended for alleged connivance with retailers serving as dummies of Chinese speculators.

Gonzales said that a NAMARCO certified public accountant who checked Jopson's sales found that big allocations of goods were granted to the Tropical Hut Grocery, to one Mrs. Henares, and to one Mrs. Yasia. A check-up with those concerned revealed that they never received such big quantities of goods invoiced under their names.

This led NAMARCO investigators to believe that the “fictitious sales” were made to Chinese merchants.

Rabano had invoiced around P16,000 worth of goods to a certain retailer in Pasay City. Investigators who became suspicious of the big allocation found that the man listed never received the goods nor had he authorized Rabano to use his name. The man neither had a store and was not a registered retailer. The same amount of goods, consisting of onions and garlic, was believed channeled to the blackmarket.

According to Gonzales, a team of NAMARCO inspectors, composed of certified public accountants, is presently inspecting the books of NAMARCO distributors in Manila and provinces. Any distributor found to have committed offenses similar to those committed by those suspended will lose their distributorship.

Gonzales told the President that several NAMARCO distributors, including ex-employees of the firm, are in their watch list. He also reported that several retailers have already been blacklisted by the NAMARCO for channeling goods to Chinese.

February 6.—FEELING sufficiently recovered from his ailment, the President started receiving callers this day.

He had breakfast with John W. Houser, executive vice-president of the Hilton Hotels International; Ray Purpus, public relations head; Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma; Modesto Farolan; and Larry Marquez. It was a social call of the visiting American executives who paid their respects to the President.

After the breakfast, President Magsaysay saw Rep. Jose J. Roy of Tarlac, Rep. Guillermo Sanchez and Gov. Felixberto Dagani of Agusan, ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo, MRR General Manager Salvador Villa, and John T. Cooper and T. Lee of the United States Veterans Administration in the Philippines.

The President also met the representatives of the Coordinating Secretariat of the International Union of Students who came to the Philippines as guests of the Student Councils Association of the Philippines (SCAP).

One of the President’s early callers was Sen. Pacita Madrigal-Gonzalez, who had wanted to see the President in connection with the current presidential investigation into the disposition of funds of the Social Welfare Administration. Witnesses to the probe had testified that Sen. Gonzalez, while SWA administrator, had listed some funds in her name. It was learned that Sen. Gonzalez requested the President that she be furnished with the records of the case.

Asked by newsmen about the SWA investigation, the President said there was no report yet from the committee. And when queried about the purpose of Sen. Gonzalez call at Malacañang in the morning, the Chief Executive said “she just dropped by for a visit.” The President met the newsmen at the weekly press conference held in the Palace dining room.

The President refused to comment on NEC Chairman Alfredo Montelibano’s multiple exchange plan, saying he had not received any such plan from Montelibano.

During the press conference, the President stressed that no one talked to Prince Norodom of Cambodia about joining the SEATCO. He said the Prince just paid us a goodwill visit, and that it “was a highly successful visit as such.”

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this day followed a heavy schedule of callers including a large group of farmers from Nueva Ecija who sought a better price for their onion products. The Chief Executive told the farmers the ACCFA would buy their onions a P7 per bag of 22 pounds.

The Nueva Ecija delegation was also assured by the President of early subdivision of landed estates, barrio roads, and irrigation systems. The delegation, which included mayors and municipal officials, was headed by Rep. Celestino Juan and Gov. Amado Aleta.

Another large provincial delegation received by the President which also requested aid was from Sariaya Quezon, headed by Rep. Manuel Enverga and Mayor Andres Remo. The delegation asked for a puericulture center, pre-fabricated school houses, artesian wells, and the completion of barrio roads.

Mrs. Luchi Lacson, wife of City Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson of Manila, Mesdames Sonia Lim, and Josefina Javier invited the President to speak at the opening of the 1956 Red Cross Fund Drive on February 19.

Dr. Jefferson Davies, United Nations abaca experts, was another caller. He was accompanied by Felix Imperial, Cosme Gonowan, and Ricardo Ledesma of the Abaca Corporation of the Philippines.

Rep. Lamberto Macias of Negros Oriental accompanied Mayors Teodorico Lato of Siaton, Ambrosio Adansa of Zamboanguista, and Gibson Araula of Dawin, all of Negros Oriental. They requested the Chief Executive aid for their various public works projects.

Another provincial delegations which called on the President and asked for material and financial aid were the Cagayan delegation, accompanied by Agriculture Undersecretary Jaime Ferrer; the Palawan delegation, headed by Gov. Alfredo Abueg, Board Members Carlos Fernandez and Datu Jolkipli, and ex-Gov. Patricio Fernandez; the farmers' delegation from San Pedro Tunasan, Laguna, accompanied by Rep. Jacobo Gonzales; the Moslem group headed by ex-Senator Tomas Cabili and Amir Mindalano; residents of Bucaue, Bulacan, headed by Mayor Dioscoro Juan; and Marinduque officials, led by Rep. Panfilo Manguera and Gov. Miguel Manguera.

The President this noon discussed again with members of the CB Monetary Board and Central Bank officials fiscal and economic policies of the government. During the conference the President:

- (1) Noted that since the first week of February the dollar reserves of the country have remained firm and shown some tendency to increase.
- (2) Directed a careful study of new industries that have already been established but are highly dependent on outside raw materials with a view to determining their long term effect on the economy. He said that all efforts should be exerted to insure that after a certain period these industries could draw on local supplies for their raw materials. He emphasized however that applications for dollar these industries will continue to be processed by the Central Bank.
- (3) Reiterated a previous directive to consider applications for new industries that will make use of local raw materials.
- (4) Directed that careful selections be made of the projects to be undertaken for which funds from bonds issues are to be used.
- (5) Emphasized that the financing of new and already existing industries should be carefully planned and that attention b given to the five-year economic plan which he had announced sometime ago.

The President reiterated that it was the duty of the National Economic Council to update this plan by revising it every year in accordance with prevailing economic conditions with the view to making full use of available local resources. The President said that it should be kept in mind that the economy should be advanced without impairing the stability of the peso.

Present at the luncheon conference which lasted from 12:30 to past 2 p.m. were Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, Monetary Board Chairman; PNB President Arsenio J. Jison, and RFC Chairman Eduardo Romualdez (MB members); and Dean Vicente Sinco, Dr Amando Dalisay, and Jaime Velasquez (acting MB member); CB Officials Nicanor Tomas, Gregorio S. Licaros, R. Mariño Corpus, and Mrs. Fanny Garcia. Also present were Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, presidential overall performance officer, and Prof. Enrique Fernando, legal adviser.

ACTING Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon this afternoon reiterated what President Magsaysay had proposed in his state-of-the-nation message that educational reforms be geared to the requirements of scientific and economic progress.

Secretary De Leon spoke in representation of the President at the opening program of the National Vocational and Industrial Exhibits and the formal launching of the Home Industries Program of the Department of Education at Philippine School of Arts and Trades at the corner of Ayala and San Marcelino Streets, this afternoon.

Mrs. Luz Banzon-Magsaysay cut the ceremonial ribbon, formally opening the program. Members of the congressional committees of education, headed by Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Sen. Jose P. Laurel, and Rep. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing, were present.

In his extemporaneous speech, Secretary De Leon said that while the development of the country's international trade was most desirable, it was vital that the government develop local industries which would use local materials in order to uplift the living conditions of the common people.

For this reason, he said, it was necessary that stimulus be provided for the country's growing industries and help in the organization of new ones. He said that this would require intensive vocational education and that for this reason the Department of Education and the Bureau of Public Schools had been directed to map out and implement vocational education projects.

February 7.—EVIDENTLY, no longer feeling the effect of his throat ailment and a slight attack of influenza which kept him in bed for three days, the President ploughed through a heavy schedule of callers from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. today. He received no less than 500 callers in three and a half hours.

A delegation from the Producers and Exporters Association presented a resolution pledging unqualified support and cooperation with the President's efforts to solve the economic problems of the country. The group also offered suggestions on solving the spiraling prices of prime commodities, the dwindling dollar reserves, unemployment, and the problems of under-production. The group was headed by Gaudencio E. Antonio, president of the association.

The President thanked the group for their offer of cooperation to his administration. He said he would take up their recommendations with appropriate officials.

Robert Kaufman of Noramgrex Company, Inc., Malden, Massachusetts, called to show the President pictures of his new invention, a movie corn mill, which he is introducing in the Philippines. Accompanied by Tirso Uytengsu, a Cebu businessman, Kaufman said that his machine could travel from barrio to barrio on its own power and could be set up in any area in a matter of minutes.

Leon Humberto Valenzuela, president of Lions International, called to pay his respects following his arrival in Manila last night in the course of a tour of various Lions clubs in the Orient. He was accompanied by Carlos Rivilla, governor of District 301 of Lions International; Ofilo A. Arellano, president of Manila Lions; and "Dindo" Gonzalez, past Lions international director.

Officers of the Optometrists Association of the Philippines headed by Dr. Gregorio Estrada presented the President with a resolution seeking the representation of their association in the board of examiners for optometrists.

Representatives from the Philippine Women Dental Foundation called to pay their respects on the occasion of the observance of the 6th National Dental Health Week from February 3 to 9 this year. The group was headed by Dr. Eufemia Laconico del Rosario, foundation president.

Members of the tax campaign committee called to submit their progress report following their tour of various parts of the country educating the people into paying their taxes. Headed by Mrs. Fernanda Balboa of the Women Voters'

League, the committee, in which the Department of Finance was represented, suggested that the President award a trophy to the municipal treasurer who registered the highest increase in tax collection during the year.

Clarita Tan Kiang, who had just returned from abroad, submitted a report on home financing projects in the countries she had visited. Miss Tan Kiang, who left the country several months ago traveling on her own had been requested to undertake studies of housing projects, particularly those established by governments of foreign countries for the low-income sections of their population.

Gov. Leon Fernandez of Sulu requested the condonation of back taxes in areas affected by the military campaign against the Moro bandit leader, Hadjo Kamlon, in his province. Fernandez, who also recommended the conversion of five municipal districts into regular municipalities, explained that farmers in the campaign area had not been able to plant during the entire period of military operations.

A delegation from Bulacan, headed by Rep. Ermo Cruz, called to pledge their support and cooperation to the Administration. The delegation included Mayor Jose Bernardo of Pandi, defeated gubernatorial candidate Mamerto Bernardo, ex-Gov. Restituto Castro, Mayor Magno Gatchalian of Paombong, and other political leaders of the province.

Other provincial delegations this morning were those from Zamboanga del Sur accompanied by Sen. Roseller T. Lim and Rep. Alberto Ubay; from Cavinti and Luisiana, Laguna, accompanied by Rep. Wenceslao Lagumbay; from Batangas, headed by Reps. Numeriano Babao and Apolinario Apacible; from Angeles, Pampanga, accompanied by Rep. Emilio Cortez; from Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, accompanied by Rep. Jose Corpuz, from Dupax, Nueva Vizcaya, accompanied by Rep. Leonardo Perez; from Pozorrubio and Villasis, Pangasinan, accompanied by Gov. Conrado Estrela; from Bacolor and Macabebe, Pampanga, headed by Gov. Rafael Lazatin; and from Lipa City, headed by Mayor Baldomero Reyes.

Individual callers included Reps. Vicente L. Peralta of Sorsogon, Secrafin Salvador of Rizal, and Justino Nuyda of Albay; and Mons Egidio Vagnozzi, papal nuncio to the Philippines.

THE President today ordered the prosecution of distributors of the National Marketing Corporation found falsifying cash sales invoices and unloading NAMARCO goods to unauthorized alien traders.

In a conference with Manuel J. Gonzalez, NAMARCO general manager, at Malacañang, the President directed that the papers of four NAMARCO agents who had been ordered investigated and found padding invoices be forwarded to the Department of Justice for possible prosecutions in the courts.

The four NAMARCO distributors were Herman Jopson, proprietor of the Jopson supermarket in Bustillos, Sampaloc; Arturo Rabano, owner of the Charity Grocery in San Andres, Manila; and E.R. Lina and F.o. Maranan of Cabanatuan City, both serving retailers in Nueva Ecija. Their rights to distribute NAMARCO merchandise had been cancelled upon receipt of the results of their investigation by Manager Gonzalez.

Another NAMARCO agent, Pilar Dominguez, who had been designated distributor for San Juan, Rizal, had been suspended pending investigation of her case. Dominguez was a former employee of the corporation.

The four agents whose cases were referred to the Department of Justice had been found tampering the duplicates of cash invoices on goods distributed to Filipino retailers to make it appear that these bona fide retailers had received more goods than they actually got. The excess goods, the investigators found, had been channelled to the black market, particularly to unauthorized alien traders.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay submitted his proposed P1.347-billion budget for the fiscal year 1956-57 today, the last day of the period allowed him by law to present his proposed expenditures for the next fiscal year.

In his budget message the president pointed out that the proposed P1.347-billion outlay tops the present budget of the government by P235 million. He pointed out that despite an increase of P46 million in the actual general appropriations, he expected a balance budget. He said that the Government expects an income of P811 million, which is more than sufficient to cover up the expected expenditures.

The President said the present “fiscal plan” gives emphasis to economic programs and services which directly advance industrial and agricultural productivity.

Although the proposed budget shows a total of P1.347 billion, the actual general appropriations is P796,900,000 as against P750,186,611 of the current fiscal year, representing an increase of P46 million.

The President reiterated in his budget message the policy of his administration “that the Government will engage in business and industrial activity only in those fields which are vital to the economy but which temporarily at least are not attractive to private initiative.”

He said the budget gives priority to projects which are oriented to economic objectives, which are definitely income producing and which promise of bringing economic returns within a relatively short period. He stressed that budgetary emphasis has been made along agricultural lines. He said “our goal is to achieve self-sufficiency in food production.”

For economic development, the President has set aside a total Of P640,900,000 while, for social development, he proposed as appropriation of P342 million.

The President proposed the adoption of the “performance budget system” in all government offices in accordance with law.

In its industrial and agricultural program, the President outlined the following specific activities which will be given priority in the present fiscal plan:

1. Undertakings which significantly contribute to, or facilitate the operation of dollar-earning or dollar-saving industry.
2. Rural development programs which stimulate self-help in achieving higher living standards and greater farm production;
3. Programs directed to gaining self-sufficiency in the production of basic foodstuffs;
4. Activities which expedite the process of land distribution among the landless; and
5. Facilities and services which are of immediate importance as a foundation to the productive process, including power, irrigation and food control, feeder roads, and water transports.

February 8.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay had a breakfast conference this morning with the four Manila solons, who discussed with him measures calculated to benefit the residents of the city.

Among the measures taken up by the President with Reps. Arturo M. Tolentino, Angel Castaño, Joaquin Rocas, and Augusto S. Francisco were the following:

1. Early release of the GSIS loan to the PHHC for a housing project in Tondo;
2. Early release by Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona of the fund for the construction of a general hospital in Tondo; and
3. Opening of the extension of the Inverness Street in Paco to Pandacan across the railroad tracks.

The Manila congressmen said they were studying the proposal to increase the number of city councilors from 12 to 20.

THE President received only a few callers today, as he was scheduled to preside over the weekly meeting of the Cabinet. He received Speaker Protempore Daniel Z. Romualdez of the House of Representatives and Gov. Bernardo Torres of Leyte, who joined the President and the Manila solons at the breakfast table. The Leyte officials requested aid for various public works projects in their province.

The President also received Assistant to the NBI Director Mariano Almeda, who reported on the progress of his investigation of the murder cases in Isabela and Cagayan.

Mr. and Mrs. David L. Marks paid a courtesy call on the President. Mr. Marks is connected with the NBC in New York, U.S.A.

Other callers received by the President were Sen. Francisco Rodrigo and Gov. Juan Triviño of Camarines Sur.

AT the Cabinet meeting today, President Magsaysay ordered the importation of ten 42-inch pumps to be used in irrigating lands along the Pampanga River which are without water during the dry season.

The President also approved the recommendation of Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason's committee to allow Teodoro Agoncillo to publish his wining books, "The Revolt of the Masses." The terms will be discussed and agreed upon between Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., and Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon on the part of the Government, and Agoncillo, the publisher.

The Cabinet also received:

(1) The report of Vice-President and concurrently Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Garcia on the latest development regarding the proposed barter of "D" sugar with Burmese rice; and

(2) A report of Education Secretary Hernandez on the work of the committee appointed by the President to follow through the erection of pre-fabricated school houses distributed in various regions of the country.

The President presided over the Cabinet meeting held at the family dining room. It started at 10:40 a.m. and ended at past 12 noon. The President left the Cabinet after one hour, and the Vice-President took over.

The told the Cabinet that he wanted his rural electrification project to be realized as early as possible. A phase of this project in the use of electric turbine pumps to irrigate tracts of land along the Pampanga River.

Invited to the Cabinet meeting to study and implement the plan were Public Works Director Julian Buendia, Highways Commissioner Rodolfo Maslog, NPC General Manager Filemon Zablan, and ICA Chief Harry Brenn.

The President directed the purchase of ten 42-inch pumps for the purpose. Electric power to be used in running these pumps will be supplied by the NPC's Ambuklao hydroelectric plant. The President told Zablan and Buendia to coordinate their efforts in this project.

Vice- President Garcia informed the Cabinet that Burma had offered a counter-proposal to a previous offer of the Philippine Government to barter "D" sugar with Burmese rice in a ton to ton basis. He said Burma's counter-proposal was that for every metric ton of rice, the Philippine Government would pay \$89.50, and the Burmese Government would buy "D" sugar at \$75.60. The Cabinet said it would study the matter. However the Vice-President informed the Cabinet that the Philippine Government had already received offers of two other countries to barter the "D" sugar with rice.

Secretary Hernandez reported to the Cabinet that the committee studying the progress of the erection of pre-fabricated school houses had decided to form provincial committees with the PC commander as chairman and the division superintendent of schools, the district engineer, and a PTA representative as members, to follow through

this work in each province. Hernandez said that the provincial committee could keep closer supervision over the erection of pre-fabricate school houses.

According to a report of the committee a total of 1,417 pre-fabricated school houses had already been shipped to various parts of the country. Out of this, 558 were already erected, 339 being erected, 342 not yet erected, and 178 still in transit.

Some of the reasons given for the delay in the erection of the prefabs were: bad weather, difficulty in transporting the materials to final destination, lack of sand and gravel, lack of time by district engineers to supervise construction, harvest time in some places, and transfer of prefabs to more needy places.

Action in this matter was prompted by an earlier report of Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol on rotting prefabs in some barrios in Altavas, Capiz.

The President also approved the sending of a delegation to the Fifth Pacific Area Travel conference to be held at the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, Japan, February 13 to 17, 1956. The delegation is composed of Modesto Farolan, president of the Philippine Tourist and Travel Association, Inc., chief delegate; Felipe Juico, president of the Philippine Society of Travel Agents, representing the traveling agencies, as alternate; and Jovito A. Rivera, commercial attache, Philippine Mission in Tokyo, as alternate. The delegates will attend the conference at their own expense.

Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma said that Philippine participation in this conference will contribute tremendously in developing and expanding the country's tourist trade. He said the Philippines was a charter member of the PATA and since its organization in 1952 the Philippines had participated in its several annual conferences.

President Magsaysay urged that the Constitution be guarded "against the passing passions of the moment" and that it be kept "inviolable from the whims of petty partisanship." He made these brief remarks as he entertained at cocktails in Malacañang the delegates to the Constitutional Convention who paid a courtesy call this afternoon.

The 21st Constitution Day anniversary was celebrated this day under the auspices of the Philippine Lawyer's Association. The celebration ended with a luncheon given by Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson at the Manila Hotel in the evening in honor of the surviving members of the Constitution Convention.

During the call of the delegates at Malacañang, former Sen. Vicente J. Francisco presented to the President a resolution requesting the President to declare February 8 as a public holiday in order that the people could better observe Constitution Day. A resolution introduced by Delegates Atilano R. Sinco and Timoteo P. Ricohermoso also requested the President and the Congress to cause the gathering and reconstitution of the records of the Constitutional Convention and their publication.

The President agreed to donate P1,000 to be awarded as the first prize in connection with the essay contest on the amendment to the Constitution, held recently under the auspices of the Philippine Lawyer's Association.

Before the President's remarks at cocktails at Malacañang, Dr. Arturo A. Alafritz, president of the Philippine Lawyer's Association, gave brief introductory remarks as he presented the President. Sen. Jose P. Laurel, who was also a delegate to the Convention, gave brief remarks in the Constitution. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, page 608, for the full text of the President's remarks.)

February 9.—AT breakfast this morning with the President, congressmen from Bicol provinces took up with the Chief Executive various agricultural development projects in their region.

The Bicol solons who broke fast with the President were Reps. Vicente L. Peralta and Salvador Encinas of Sorsogon; Pio Duran Justino Nuyda, and Tecla Ziga of Albay; Felix A. Fuentebella of Camarines Sur; Fernando Pajarillo of Camarines Norte; and Mateo S. Pecson of Masbate.

AFTER breakfast, the President received a delegation from the Filipino Nurses Association who invited him to address their biennial convention in April. The group was headed by Miss Annie Sand.

The President received another big number of callers this day, as he was preparing to leave for an undisclosed place tomorrow to begin an uninterrupted study of reorganization plans submitted by the Government Survey and Reorganization Commission. He received visitors at his study from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Dr. Felix Velasco, chief of the San Lazaro Hospital, head another group which showed the President the plan of the new P3-million San Lazaro Hospital to be constructed at the same site on Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz.

IN the course of his conference with Gov. Pedro Singson Reyes of Ilocos Sur, who showed him samples of cotton recently harvested in Candon, the President directed the ACCFA to extend all assistance to farmers in the Ilocos region to enable them to plant cotton on a large scale.

Impressed by the quality of the fiber harvested in Candon shown him by Gov. Singson Reyes, the President decided to encourage large scale planting of cotton to boost the local cotton industry and achieve self-sufficiency in textiles. He said with proper assistance from the government, farmers in the Ilocos and other regions could produce enough cotton to supply the nation's needs.

EXECUTIVES of the Tokyu Car Manufacturing Company presented the President with a miniature scale model of the diesel rail cars which had been ordered by the MRR. Costing about P46,000 each, the car capable of running 120 kilometers per hour has a maximum load of 120 passengers.

Accompanied by MRR Manager Salvador T. Villa, the Japanese executives were Toshiji Yoshitsugu, president of the manufacturing company, Andrew M. Nakamura, and Shinzo Tsutsumi. Also with the group was Alejandro S. Makabali, local agent of the firm.

A LARGE delegation from the Philippine Government Employees Association headed by Mrs. Nieves Baens del Rosario, president, presented the President with a plaque which read: "For exemplary and honest service, brilliant performance, and self-sacrifice for the common weal, thereby restoring the faith of the people in the Administration and redeeming the honor of government employees, this testimonial of respect and high esteem is being tendered."

Thanking the group, the President said that their manifestation of support and loyalty would encourage him all the more to continue working for the common good. He also assured the delegation that everything would be done to avoid unnecessary laying-off of employees as a result of the government reorganization plans.

A DELEGATION from the Blind Foundation of the Philippines presented a petition requesting a yearly allotment for the foundation. Headed by Nicomedes Miligat, president of the organization, the group also sought the extension of the right of suffrage to the blind.

MEMBERS of the board of directors of the Philippine Library Association called to submit several names of persons whom they recommended for the position of director of public libraries expected to be vacated when the incumbent, Luis Montilla, retires next month. This group was headed by Dr. Gabriel A. Bernardo.

Other delegations were those from the All Surigueños Club headed by its president, Jesus C. Berte; from the WMPM chapter of Isabela, accompanied by Rep. Samuel F. Reyes; from Biñan, Laguna, accompanied by Rep. Jacobo Gonzalez; from Cotabato and Lanao, accompanied by Sen. Domocao Alonto and Rep. Luminog Mangelen; and a composite group representing a number of civic organizations which recommended Fernanda Balboa of the Women Voters' League for the position of social welfare administration.

PLEDGES of developing commercial and cultural relations between the Philippines and the Federal Republic of Germany were made this afternoon when the first German Minister to the Philippines, Baron von Furstenberg, presented his credentials to President Magsaysay.

The presentation ceremony was held at the ceremonial hall of Malacañang, attended by high government officials. Among the officials present were Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia, Acting Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon, Sen. Cipriano Primicias, Rep. Constancio Castañeda of Tarlac, Counsellor Octavio L. Maloles of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Minister Furstenberg was accompanied by Dr. Bruno Fischer, commercial counsellor.

After the presentation of credentials and the exchange of remarks, which took place at 4:30 p.m., President Magsaysay and Minister Furstenberg offered the ceremonial toasts.

The President engaged the German minister in formal explanatory talks regarding the opening of trade relations between the Philippines and Germany. The President suggested to Vice-President Garcia that talks on the promotion of Philippine-German trade be conducted by representatives of the Philippine Government and the German legation.

February 10.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay did not receive any callers this morning except Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao with whom he conferred until 10 a.m. The President received Balao in the family dining room.

LATER, the President left for an undisclosed place so that he could study the reorganization plans submitted by the Government Survey and Reorganization Commission.

It was understood that the President took along Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, Judge Salvador Esguerra, and Prof. Enrique M. Fernando.

The GSRC submitted to the President some 61 separate plans proposing changes in the government structure. As the Chief Executive has only until February 14 to act on these plans before submitting them to Congress, he sought seclusion in order that he could study the plans without interruption.

MALACAÑANG announced in the evening that President Magsaysay approved a proposal to abolish the Public Service Commission and organize in its place a six-man body to regulate effectively the licensing of public utilities throughout the country. The proposal came from the GSRC. The plan will be submitted to Congress next week.

It was learned that the six-man body will be composed of two collegiate courts of three members each, which will conduct rigorous hearings before issuing certificates of public conveyance. The new office will operate under the Department of Public Works and Communications.

A Malacañang spokesman said that the President returned to the Palace shortly before 7 o'clock this evening.

February 11.—FOR the second consecutive day, the President left Malacañang for an "undisclosed place." He was accompanied by Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, chairman of the Government Survey and Reorganization Commission (GSRC), in order to aid the President in the study of the various proposals on the reorganization of the government. Mrs. Magsaysay and their daughter Teresita also accompanied the President.

Before leaving Malacañang at 11:45 a.m., the President summoned acting CB Deputy Governor Nicanor Tomas and Gregorio Licaros, chief of the import-export department of the Central Bank. The President called them presumably to induce Licaros to withdraw his letter expressing his desire to quit his post at the Central Bank.

February 12.—THE President returned to Malacañang at 5:30 this afternoon from a three-day study of government reorganization plans on board the *Santa Maria* and prepared to wind up through the night his review of 61 plans for the reorganization of the government structure prepared by the Government Survey and Reorganization Commission (GSRC).

The President said he had gone over more than one-half of the plans and hoped to complete his study by tonight.

He has until Tuesday, February 14, to submit to Congress whichever plans he wishes considered by the legislature. Those he will not submit will be considered discarded. Congress may approve the plans separately either by explicit resolution or by inaction 70 days after receiving a plan from the executive. Disapproval by Congress of any plan will also require an explicit resolution.

Malacañang had no details to release as to which plans already have been approved by the President for submission to Congress and which have been discarded. Exception had been made, however with the plan to create a Department of General Services, which will serve as the housekeeping arm of the government. Malacañang had earlier announced approval of this plan by the President.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this evening ordered another battalion combat team dispatched to Cavite to crack down further on lawlessness in that province.

The President's decision, which he transmitted directly to Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, was prompted by the recent "vengeance killing of a Cavite barrio lieutenant by the band of the outlaw chieftain, Leonardo Manico, *alias* kilabot. The President said he wanted lawlessness in Cavite stamped out once and for all.

The Chief Executive also directed Balao to send for the next of kin of the slain barrio lieutenant, Nicanor Samonte, of barrio Navarro, General Trias, and to have them taken to Malacañang for whatever help they may need in view of their bereavement. The President said he wanted to see them personally. He also instructed Balao to have the barrio lieutenant decorated posthumously for his heroism.

The President acknowledged the substantial strides towards peace and order that have been made in Cavite recent months but expressed the wish that the drive be stepped up further to make life and property secure in the province.

The President also reiterated to Balao that he wanted all security agencies ordered to extend protection to persons cooperating with the peace-and-order drive, whether the latter liked it or not. Samonte, the saline barrio lieutenant, had been killed for joining an Army patrol tracking down the bandit chieftain and his gang. He had been offered protection by the military authorities in the province but he refused it. He was killed a few days later.

February 13.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay entertained at breakfast this morning, Dr. Billy Graham, American evangelist, who held spellbound some 40,000 people who jam-packed the Rizal Memorial Football Stadium last night to hear his message.

The famed Evangelist expressed his gratitude for the "wonderful" reception accorded him here. He told the President that the mammoth crowd was very orderly and peaceful throughout his speech which lasted for 71 minutes.

The breakfast lasted from 8 to 9 a.m. Others at the breakfast were Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez, U.S. Ambassador Homer Ferguson, Col. Harry Brenn of the ICA, Dr. Jorge Bocobo, Albino Sycip, Teodoro Toribio, Bishop Norman Binsted, Bishop Cipriano Navarro, Dr. Gumercindo Garcia, Leon O. Ty, Rev. Jose Yap, Dr. Robert Pierce, Jerry Bevan, Cliff Barrows, and Elsworth Culver.

After the breakfast, the President left with his aide, Maj. Jose Estrella, for an undisclosed place to complete his study of the 61 proposals of the Government Survey and Reorganization Commission.

MALACAÑANG announced in the evening that among the reorganization plans which President Magsaysay will submit to Congress on Tuesday, February 14, is Reorganization Plan No. 27-A, which revamps the Department of Commerce and Industry.

The reorganization of the Department of Commerce and Industry is highlighted by the following:

(1) Abolition of the Bureau of Commerce and creation of a Bureau of Domestic Trade;

- (2) Creation of a Bureau of Foreign Trade;
- (3) Creation of a Bureau of Industrial Promotion;
- (4) Abolition of the Cooperative Administration Office and creation of a Bureau of Cooperatives Administration;
- (5) Creation of a field organization; and
- (6) Creation of staff divisions under the office of the secretary.

February 14.—BEING the last day given by law to the Chief Executive to submit his plan for reorganization the executive branch of the government, this day the President cancelled his schedule with callers in order to devote his time to the study of the 61 proposals of the Government Survey and Reorganization Commission. He conferred with Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, chairman of the GSRC, and Legislative Secretary Jose G. Nable.

After rejecting eight plans out of the 61 proposals, the President handed the plans to Nable for transmission to Congress in the evening.

Killed by the President were the reorganization plans on immigration, community development, land settlement and tenancy, three plans on national defense, fringe benefits, and public housing and mortgage insurance.

Approved for submission to Congress this evening were 53 plans for revamping offices of the executive departments, including a proposal to standardize the salaries of government employees.

The plan for standardization of salaries will affect more than 30,000 government employees. The plan was designed to correct inequalities in the government salary scale. The adjustment of salaries would be based on the responsibilities of the officials and employees concerned. However, the plan would not cause any reduction in the salary of any employee.

AFTER disposing of the reorganization plans, the President motored out of Malacañang and visited the irrigation division of the Bureau of Public Works in order to check up on the progress of the work on the installation of irrigation systems in different provinces.

The President stayed at the irrigation division for 20 minutes. He set down with Public Works Director Julian Buendia; Agapito Alano, chief of the irrigation division; and Tomas de Guzman, chief of the irrigation section. Also present were Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno and Public Works Undersecretary Rafael Contreras, who came in later during the conference.

FROM the public works office, the President proceeded to the Bureau of Forestry on Juan Luna, Binondo. There he had another conference with forestry officials headed by Director Felipe R. Amos, who told him of the problems of his bureau.

Amos informed the Chief Executive that his office was seriously handicapped by the shortage of personnel and lack of funds. The forestry director said that before the war, his field men used to be out in the field about 20 to 25 days a month inspecting lumber areas, fishponds, grazing lands, and other concessions applied for by private individuals. Now his men had to stay in the office most of the time and go out only about five days a month owing to lack of funds, Amos said.

The President instructed Director Amos to present his problems at the scheduled, regular meeting of the Cabinet tomorrow morning. He expressed a wish that his attention should have been called earlier so that solutions to those problems could have been found.

In the course of the surprise visit at the bureau shortly before noon today, the President instructed Director Amos to rush action on pending applications, particularly those from dollar-producing industries. He also asked forestry director to expedite work in the reclassification of forestry lands into agricultural lands so that these idle public lands could be distributed to the landless as soon as possible and contribute to the Administration's program of increased production.

IN the afternoon, the President launched the 1956 annual fund campaign of the Philippine National Red Cross at ceremonies held at the Malacañang social hall. He handed a check for P1,000 to Mrs Arsenio H. Lacson, chairman of the Manila fund campaign committee, as his contributor to the fund drive.

The President in his speech, called upon all citizens and residents of the Philippines, regardless of nationality or creed to support this year's Red Cross fund campaign. He said, "I trust that the Filipino people will rally behind the banners of the Red Cross."

Explaining the importance of the campaign, the President said: "The Red Cross is the instrumentality through which we all can give some help to our fellowmen who need it most. Through the Red Cross we can lighten the load of a typhoon sufferer, brighten the hours of a soldier in a hospital, or help tide over a patient through a crisis when life itself may hang in balance. In helping these needy countrymen of ours, we make our own lives more meaningful."

AFTER launching the 1956 Red Cross fund campaign this afternoon, President Magsaysay brought together R. Mariño Corpus and Gregorio S. Licaros, both of the Central Bank import-export department, who earlier in the day figured in a controversy.

Corpus approached the President and indicated that he had no ill feeling against his colleague, Licaros. Corpus said that Licaros had been a victim of intrigues generated by those who did not want Corpus in the sensitive department of the Central Bank.

The President summoned Licaros, who attended the launching of the Red Cross fund campaign, and made the two shake hands and pledge to "let bygones be bygones." However, the two both requested that they be relieved of their present membership in the CB import-export committee.

February 15.—UNAVAILABLE to callers for the last five days, the President started receiving visitors this day. He began the day, together with the First Lady, with a breakfast with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Morgenthau, Jr., U.S. Ambassador and Mrs. Homer Ferguson also attended the breakfast.

Morgenthau was U.S. Secretary of the treasury during the four terms of the late President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

President Magsaysay also received USN Rear Admiral Hugh Goodwin, outgoing commander of the U.S. naval forces in the Philippines, and the USN Rear Admiral Wendell Switzer, the new U.S. Navy commander. Ambassador Ferguson accompanied the naval officers.

The President told a large delegation from Romblon that he would order the survey of the Tablas waterfalls in the province for the proposed hydroelectric power project which would be utilized in the marble industry.

Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno and Governor Manuel Solidum headed the Romblon delegation. The President told them that with the development of the marble industry in Romblon, the nation could stop importing marble from Europe. The delegation also handled a evolution to the President requesting the appointment of Prof. Jesus Fabella, president of the Philippine Historical Association, as director of the Bureau of Public Libraries upon the resignation of Luis Montilla.

Dr. Henry Kessler of the Kessler Institute of Fest Orange, New Jersey, U.S.A., was another presidential caller. Dr. Kessler, who was scheduled to be awarded the Philippine Legion of Honor (Commander) for meritorious services

rendered in the rehabilitation of the physically handicapped in the Philippines, was accompanied by Health Secretary Paulino J. Garcia.

Also with Dr. Kessler were Doctors Benjamin Tamesis, Abelardo Inocentes, and L. Tablante of the National Orthopedic Hospital. Dr. Inocentes was loaned by the Philippine Government to the United Nations to continue the rehabilitation work started by Dr. Kessler in Indonesia. Dr. Inocentes, who took post graduate courses under Dr. Kessler, will leave for Indonesia soon as a United Nation physician. The President and Dr. Kessler talked about the rehabilitation work being done all over the country to help the physically handicapped persons.

Gov. Alejo Santos and Rep. Rogaciano Mercado of Bulacan accompanied a big delegation from the towns of Bocaue, Marilao, and Sta. Maria. The delegation, composed mostly of farmers, requested the immediate completion of the Bocaue- Marilao irrigation project.

Other callers of the President before he presided over the regular Cabinet meeting were Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, and Sens. Emmanuel Pelaez and Gil J. Puyat.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay and the Cabinet at their meeting today:

(1) Authorized the importation of \$5,000 worth of potato seedlings for the use of upland planters, particularly in the Mountain Province, and at the same time requested the secretary of agriculture and natural resources to consider and carry out the establishment of a seed farm devoted exclusively to the raising of potato seedlings; and

(2) Authorized the Bureau of Forestry to dispense with public bidding in disposing of applications for timber concessions covering areas not exceeding 6,000 hectares.

The President presided over the Cabinet meeting which started at 11 a.m. and lasted until 12:30 p.m. The meeting was held in the family dining room.

The Cabinet action in approving the importation of potato seedlings was prompted by ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo's letter to the President calling attention to the problems of potato planters in the Mountain Province.

Mondoñedo who was invited to the Cabinet meeting, also said in his letter that with the help of ACCFA's financing, the local potato industry has progressed. He revealed that prior to 1953, there had been very little potato production. However, he added, local production rose in 1953 to 7,200,000 kilos and increased in 1954 to 7,245,741 kilos. But he said that in 1955 the production dropped to 6,657,558 kilos, which was probably caused by diseases and pests that infested the potato farms, particularly in the Mountain Province and Cotabato.

The Cabinet requested the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources to consider and carry out the establishment of a seed farm devoted exclusively to the raising of potatoes for seedling purposes, in line with the plan of the government to make the Philippines self-sufficient in potatoes.

The President emphasized to Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez and to Mondoñedo to do their best in seeing to it that there would be enough potatoes planted so that prices of this commodity could be kept down. He also congratulated the two officials for their efforts in looking after the interests of the local potato industry.

During the Cabinet meeting the President was presented by Mondoñedo with samples of potatoes grown in Rizal. The President ordered the potatoes fried and passed them around to the Cabinet members to sample. They all found the fried potatoes palatable.

In the presence of Forestry Director Felipe R. Amos, who was invited to attend the meeting, the President and the Cabinet authorized the Bureau of Forestry to dispense with public bidding in disposing of applications for timber concessions covering areas not exceeding 6,000 hectares. Such concessions, the Cabinet said, would be awarded

through negotiated leases contracts. It was stipulated, however, that the successful applicants should be required to follow selective logging so as to prevent the needless destruction of trees not needed for timber purposes.

Action on this matter followed a surprise visit yesterday by the President to the Bureau of Forestry during which he instructed the forestry director to rush action on pending applications for timber concessions with a view to hastening the economic development of the country.

February 16.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today, had breakfast with Federico Elizalde, who sought amendment of Executive Order 157, creating the National Theater Committee of which he is chairman.

The committee, Elizalde said, desired to control and supervise the construction of the proposed national theater. It was learned that the Department of Public Works and Communications has the sole power to supervise the construction of all public buildings. The Chief Executive referred the request to Malacañang Legal Adviser Salvador Esguerra.

Present during the breakfast which lasted from 8 to 8:30 a.m. were Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., U.P. President Vidal Tan, and Rafael Yabut of the Manila Broadcasting Company.

The President today ordered the Department of Education to revise the industrial arts curriculum of the public schools so as to train school children in trades that would be more useful to them in the future.

In a spirited pep talk before a delegation of industrial arts supervisors this morning, the President emphasized the advisability of dropping such subjects as basket-making in the public schools and substituting them with jute bag-weaving and other undertakings that would produce articles that are in demand in this country.

Accompanied by Education Secretary Hernandez, the delegation of industrial arts supervisors from public schools all over the country who are now in convention in connection with the home industries program of the Department of Education, informed the President that this was the first time they were ever convened in Manila. They promised that they would discuss in their conference ways and means of effectively carrying out the President's policy.

The Chief Executive urged the educators to be more practical in their training of the youth. He said that the economic development program of the country was often handicapped by the lack of trained men in vocational fields.

The President received callers at his study from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. He received no less than 1,000 persons this morning. Most of his callers were made up of delegations from the provinces which sought financial assistance for pressing projects in their respective localities.

A delegation from the Federation of the Filipino Rice and Corn Millers presented a total of 23 resolutions requesting, among others, the abolition of the 2 per cent milling tax, repeal of the rice enrichment law, liberal credit facilities by the RFC and the PNB, and purchase by the NARIC of unmilled palay instead of milled rice. The group was headed by Efren V. Mendoza, federation president.

Another delegation from the Philippine Well Drillers Association headed by Raymundo Casuse complained against certain officials in the Department of Public Works and Communications who, they claimed, were putting up obstacles in their installation of artesian wells all over the country in connection with their contracts with the government. The President ordered Assistant Executive Secretary Enrique C. Quema to look into the matter.

Other delegations were those from San Antonio, Biñan, Laguna, accompanied by Mayor Jesus Garcia and Rep. Jacobo Gonzales; from Lavearez, Samar, accompanied by Rep. Eladio Balite; from San Mateo Isabela, headed by Rep. Samuel F. Reyes; and from Tanza, Cavite, headed by Vice-Mayor Hermogenes Paconio.

Among the last delegations received by the President was a big group of farmers from Cuyapo and Guimba, Nueva Ecija, and Tarlac, Tarlac, which protested against the inclusion of their lands in the Hacienda Esperanza earmarked for expropriation by the Government for distribution to the landless. They claimed they were the real owners of these lands and not the landlord from whom the Government was poised to seize them.

Individual callers included Reps. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz, Constancio Castañeda of Tarlac, Arturo M. Tolentino of Manila, Jose Corpuz of Nueva Ecija, and Leon Guinto, Jr., of Quezon; Govs. Nicanor Maronilla Seva of Albay, Juan Alberto of Catanduanes, Arsenio Lugay of Tarlac, and Juan Triviño of Camarines Sur.

President and Mrs. Magsaysay gave a formal dinner in honor of USN Rear Admiral and Mrs. Hugh H. Goodwin and USN Rear Admiral and Mrs. Wendell Switzer at 8 p.m. at the Malacañang banquet hall.

The dinner was a *despedida* for the Goodwins and a *bienvenida* for the Switzers. Admiral Goodwin is relinquishing his command for a new assignment and is being relieved by Admiral Switzer.

Among the guests were: U.S. Ambassador and Mrs. Homer Ferguson, Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, Press Secretary and Mrs. J.V. Cruz, Sen and Mrs. Emmanuel Pelaez, Rep. Numeriano U. Babao, U.S. Minister and Mrs. Charles R. Burrows, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary and Mrs. Raul S. Manglapus, Ambassador and Mrs. Felino Neri.

Ambassador Joaquin M. Elizalde, Lieut. Gen. and Mrs. Jesus Vargas, Navy Commodore and Mrs. Jose M. Francisco, Air Force Brig. Gen. Pelagio A. Cruz, JUSMAG Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Wayne Smith, Capt. and Mrs. Henry Louis Miller, Capt. and Mrs. Frank A. Nusem, Col. and Mrs. Richard C. Lowman, Lieutenant and Mrs. E.O. Scott, Jr., Miss Conchita Sunico, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brenn, Mr. and Mrs. John T. Cooper, Jr., and Mr. Dave Sternberg.

February 17.—THE President had an hour-long breakfast conference with NEC Chairman Alfrdo Montelibano this morning. He took up with his economic “Czar” his proposals to amend the five-year economic program of the Administration.

After the breakfast conference, the President received William Shipley, U.S. credit expert on detail with the Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Financing Administration. Shipley was accompanied to Malacañang by ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo.

The American adviser told the President he was leaving shortly for the United States.

Other callers who saw the President this morning were Sens. Pedro Sabido and Emmanuel Pelaez, Rep. Emilio Cortez of Pampanga, Govs. Antonio Raquiza of Ilocos Norte and Juan Alberto of Catanduanes, former Sen. Justiniano S. Montano, and former Rep. Amado Yuson of Pampanga.

AFTER receiving a few callers, the President motors to the Central Bank to inspect personally the progress of the implementation of his policies by the CB Monetary Board with regard to the allocation of dollars set down in two previous conferences with CB officials.

The President was told by Nicanor Tomas, acting CB governor, that the policies were being faithfully implemented. The President, who was accompanied to the Central Bank by Press Secretary J.V. Cruz and Defense Jose M. Crisol, stayed there from about 11 to 11:30 a.m.

IN the afternoon, the President left Malacañang at 4:20 for the Girl Scouts of the Philippines building on Padre Faura Street, to address the National Secondary Schools Press Conference now going on under the auspices of the Bureau of Public Schools.

President Magsaysay announced that the Government would reduce to the minimum the tuition fees of students studying vocational courses in government schools as a means of encouraging the vigorous growth of vocational

education in the Philippines. He made this announcement during an open forum which followed his speech before the delegates to the National Secondary School Press Conference this afternoon at the Girl Scouts of the Philippines' auditorium.

In his speech, President Magsaysay regretted a "tragic weakness" of our educational system that "encourage students to think only in terms of white-collar career and white-collar jobs." He said he had decided to correct this weakness by recommending to Congress the "adoption of educational reforms geared to the requirements of scientific and economic progress."

Reiterating his determination to pursue this policy, the President told the Secondary Schools Press Conference delegates:

"I urge you to begin laying emphasis through your school papers and in your other writings, on the opportunities that await students in the fields of science and technology.

"I urge you to begin preaching the gospel of vocational education, scientific education, technological education.

"I urge you to re-channel the ambitions of our students from white-collar careers and professions towards the engineering professions, agriculture, medicine, and allied pursuits."

The President gave assurances that the Government would do everything possible to comply with this new educational reforms.

President Magsaysay arrived at the GSP building at exactly 4:30 p.m., accompanied by Press Secretary J.V. Cruz and a presidential aide, Maj. Jose Estrella. The President was met by education officials headed by Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., Education Undersecretary Martin Aguilar, Public Schools Assistant Director Benigno Aldana, Superintendent of City Schools Antonio Maceda, and Victor P. Hernandez, overall chairman of the conference.

February 18.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay cancelled his schedule of callers this day and confined himself in his bedroom, where he poured over a backlog of state papers.

However, he received Sen. Gil J. Puyat, who reported on his observations during his trip to the United State. Puyat returned from his trip abroad early this week.

After Puyat's conference with the President, Legislative Secretary Jose C. Nable saw the President to brief him on the progress of some Administration bills now pending consideration in Congress.

Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol also called to report on some "important confidential matters," which he refused to divulge to newsmen.

IN the afternoon, the President motored out of Malacañang for an undisclosed place. He returned shortly before sundown.

February 19.—AFTER hearing a mass in the morning at the Malacañang chapel, the President received members of the Business Writers Association of the Philippines who were perhaps too busy on regular days to call on him. They called to award the Chief Executive a bronze plaque, making him an honorary member of the association "for encouraging healthy discussion of the country's economic problems."

The Chief Executive said it was an honor to be a member of such an organization and he expressed the hope that "we could meet more often so that you can express your views on the solutions to the economic problems of our country."

Present at the awarding ceremony which was held in the President's study were: T. de Guzman, *Daily Mirror*, president of the BWAP; B. Ronquillo, *Bulletin*; S. Bigay and B. Calleja, *Manila Chronicle*; E. Ilustre, *Manila Times*; V. Maceda, *Bagong Buhay*; A.B. Isip, O. Villasin, and H. Cosio, members.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today told the annual convention of the Federation of Abaca and Other Fibers Association:

(1) That he would release the balance of P18 million in the appropriation for the Abaca Corporation of the Philippines provided the abaca group presented him with a workable program for the expenditure of this amount; and

(2) That he would instruct the Department of Commerce and Industry to study the feasibility of permitting abaca for barter trade under the no-dollar import law, provided all barter would be in exchange for essential commodities.

The President made these pledges in a two-hour "bull session," from 9:30-11:30 a.m., with the abaca conventionists at the Malacañang social hall. The organization was on the second day of its annual convention.

The President explained to the gathering that the Administration had been hesitant in the past to spend for the industry in view of the ravages of mosaic on abaca. However, he pointed out that the eradication of the disease would inevitably go hand-in-hand with government efforts to help the industry and raise the production rate and income of abaca.

The President, after being told that the convention had approved two resolutions requesting release of the P18 million balance for the Abaca Corporation of the Philippines and the inclusion of abaca among the crops eligible for barter, acceded to both petitions provided that, in the former case, the government was presented with a practical program for the expenditure of the P18 million, and in the latter case, the barter was confined to essential imports.

The President asked the conventionists to appoint a seven-man board to draw up the programming of the expenditure of the P18 million fund. He suggested that the board be headed by Felix Imperial, Jr., head of the Abaca Corporation of the Philippines.

In permitting in principle the barter of abaca with essential imports, the President pointed out that the present government policy was to allow barter only for essential commodities. He reiterated, however, that it was the intention of the Government to allow in the future the barter of local export products for non-essential commodities. He said this arrangement envisioned channeling the importation of luxuries and non-essentials from actual dollar importers to producer-exporters. Under this system, he said that the present dollar importers of luxuries and non-essentials would be cut off from dollar allocations and would be directed, instead, to contact producer-exporters for the importation of their commodities. These contacts would be established through a clearing house to be set up by the Government, he said.

The President also approved at the meeting a proposal for the National Development Company to set up a P10 million textile and processing plant for ramie in Davao. Ramie planters will pay off the cost of the plant through payments in ramie fiber, with the end in view of their acquiring full possession of the plant after a number of years.

The President also agreed that the abaca planters would be allowed to acquire title to 144 hectares each, the maximum permitted by law, provided these areas already were fully planted to abaca and fully cultivated. He extended this authority upon being informed that production of abaca was profitable only in case of ample acreage.

The President also directed during the meeting that a wire be sent to Governor Miguel Cuaderno of the Central Bank urging him to seek a loan from the United States to finance the establishment of two processing plants for ramie.

The meeting between the President and the abaca producers was opened by Rep. Pio Dura of Albay, who spoke on behalf of former Agriculture Secretary Mariano Garchitorena, president of the Federation of Abaca and Other Fibers Associations. Duran acquainted the President with the two resolutions approved the previous day by the convention

seeking the release of the P18 million balance for the Abaca Corporation of the Philippines and the inclusion of abaca among the products qualified for barter under the no-dollar import law.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this afternoon extolled the high patriotism of the late Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos who, he said, had preferred to be executed rather than compromise his firm conviction of what was true love of country.

The President said that, inspired by the ideals of Abad Santos in serving unselfishly his country, he was doing his best to serve all the people of the Philippines, both the high and the low, the rich and the poor.

“The country needs today more men possessing the qualities of Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos. He, like Rizal, belongs not only to the Philippines but to the entire world,” the President said.

The President made these remarks in an extemporaneous speech delivered before thousands who packed the San Fernando, Pampanga, provincial plaza to witness the unveiling of the Abad Santos monument and the presentation of a historical painting of the last hours of the hero.

The ceremonies followed an hour-long civic-military parade which was reviewed by the President and distinguished guests at the entrance to the Pampanga provincial capitol. Among those present at the ceremonies were Mrs. Amanda T. Abad Santos, widow of the late Chief Justice, and the Abad Santos family; Chief Justice Ricardo Paras, Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason; Pampanga Gov. Rafael Lazatin; Tarlac Gov. Arsenio Lugay; Pampanga Rep. Emilio Cortez; Tarlac Rep. Constancio Castañeda; ex-Justice Roman Ozaeta; U.S. Ambassador Homer Ferguson; and Lucas Yuzon, executive committee chairman.

President Magsaysay arrived at 2:45 p.m. at San Fernando aboard one of the new Manila Railroad diesel electric air-conditioned coaches. He was accompanied by Rep. Constancio Castañeda, Bulacan Gov. Alejo Santos, MRR Chairman Andres Hizon, MRR General Manager Salvador Villa, Assistant Press Secretary Guillermo V. Sison, and a presidential aide, Maj. Jose Estrella.

From the railroad station, the President motored to the Abad Santos residence, where he was received by Mrs. Abad Santos and members of the Abad Santos family. *Merienda* was served the presidential party.

The celebration was highlighted by the presence of a Moro delegation from Malabang, Lanao, the place where Chief Justice Abad Santos had been executed and buried by the Japanese. The Moro delegation was headed by ex-Rep. Manalao Mindalano, Mayor Balindo of Malabang, Datu Aguam, and Sultan Yamla.

Mindalano said that Moros of Lanao had the highest regard for the patriotism shown by the late Chief Justice Abad Santos and that they considered him as one of the greatest Filipino heroes. He said that this people were taking steps to build a monument in honor of Abad Santos.

Abad Santos' widow had to go twice to the monument: first, when the monument was unveiled and, the second, when the painting was unveiled. The painting bowed Abad Santos kneeling before his execution, counseling his son Pepito not to cry and to be brave, and adding, “This is a rare opportunity for me to die for our country. Not everybody is given that chance.” After the unveiling, the widow who was touched with emotions, kissed the painting. The painting was done by Felix P. Gonzalez.

The President, who spoke extemporaneously in Tagalog, was applauded several times as he extolled the patriotism of Abad Santos. He said that Abad Santos could have led a rich and powerful life had he acceded to the Japanese request to serve under them. But, the President said, Abad Santos did not compromise his deep conviction.

Secretary Tuason, who cut the monument's ribbon, aided by Mesdames Rosita Buan and Evangelina H. Lacson, and Chief Justice Paras, who unveiled the monument, aided by Mrs. Santos, gave brief remarks extolling the qualities of the late Chief Justice. The ceremonies closed with floral offerings participated in by Govs. Lugay and Lazatin, Ambassador Ferguson, and Messrs. Pedro B. de Jesus and Maximo Vergara.

The President was warmly received by the people of Pampanga. Hundreds approached him to shake his hand as he walked from the platform to board the train. He left San Fernando at 5:50 p.m. and arrived at the Tutuban Station at 7:05 p.m., making a ten-minute stop-over in Malolos to drop off Gov. Santos.

Aboard the train, the President moved from the air-conditioned coach to this first class coach and found the couches in the best of condition. He praised MRR Manager Villa for the new coaches and for the progress which the MRR was making in slowly wiping out its losses. The President said that by next year, the MRR was expected to make profits.

February 20.—STARTING with a breakfast conference with UNESCO Director-General Luther Evans and officials of the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines, the President followed a heavy schedule of callers this morning. Officials of the commission, besides Dr. Evans, who were present at the breakfast conference were Dr. Eduardo Quisumbing, Miss Lumen Policarpio, Dr. Vidal A. Tan, Dr. Francisco Dalupan, Dr. Manuel Gallego, Dr. Urban Fleege, and Col. Fred Ruiz Castro.

At the breakfast, the President inquired into the progress of the program of staging dramas in the towns and barrios all over the country which was being undertaken by the UNESCO in the rural areas. The UNESCO officials told the President that the program was being implemented.

AFTER the breakfast conference, the President received Gov. Leon Guinto, Sr., of Quezon, who informed him that his re-election for the presidency in 1957 was unanimously endorsed by the provincial board and all the mayors, Nacionalistas and Liberals, of Quezon at a recent meeting in Lucena.

The President said, however, that the matter was far off yet and that he preferred not to discuss politics for the present. The Quezon governor, who saw the President with Reps. Leon Guinto, Jr., and Manuel Enverga, and all the mayors of the province, also told the President that the Administration's rural development program was being fully implemented by all the provincial officials.

The President talked to the Quezon officials for almost 30 minutes, devoting most of the time inquiring about the progress of the construction of roads and irrigation systems in the rural areas. Gov. Guinto, who was the spokesman for rye delegation, requested more aid for the public works project in his province.

Rep. Panfilo Manguera and Gov. Miguel Manguera of Marinduque headed a group of mayors who requested the President to order the immediate search for a site for the proposed Marinduque airfield. The delegation also asked for aid for their irrigation systems.

Mayor Julian Pacificador of Hamtik, Antique, took his oath before the President as a member of the Nacionalista Party. The new Nacionalista mayor was accompanied by Rep. Tobias Fornier of Antique.

The Knights of Columbus, headed by Grand Knight Dr. Ramon F. Campos, also called on the President. They presented to him a special copy of an oath of allegiance to the Filipino flag. The copy of the oath presented to the President was engraved on a gold-plated plaque.

Among the many callers of the President were Sen. Mariano Jesus Cuenco; Ambassador Narciso Ramos; Reps. Manuel Cases of La Union, Serafin Salvador of Rizal, Salvador Encinas and Vicente Peralta of Sorsogon, Apolinario Apacible of Batangas, William Chiongbian of Misamis Occidental, Jacobo Gonzales of Laguna, Felipe Garduque of Cagayan, Gaudencio Abordo of Palawan, and Jose Nuguid of Bataan; and Gov. Bernanrdo Gapus of La Union, Judge Vicente Llanes, Atty. and Mrs. Juan C. Orendain, PHHC Manager Vicente Orosa, and the Iloilo delegates to the National Secondary School Press Conference.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay and economists of the country, including those from private economic sectors, this evening sat down to a three-hour conference and discussed ways and means of implementing the Administration's economic program.

Among the points taken up was how to save the abaca industry. The conference discusses how to help this industry through barter, without adversely affecting the international reserve. Other matters considered for the rehabilitation of abaca were the establishment of big and small abaca centrals and the utilization of waste products of the industry.

Those present at the economic meeting were Dean Vicente Sinco; Acting Central Bank Governor Nicanor Tomas; Gregorio S. Licaros, CB special assistant in charge of imports; R. Marino Corpus, CB special assistant in charge of exports; Mrs. Fanny Garcia, secretary of the Export-Import Committee; NEC member Salvador Araneta; Alfonso Calalang, president of the Bankers Association; Mrs. Belen E. Gutierrez of the Far Eastern University; Achilles Mossesgeld of the University of Santo Tomas College of Commerce; Dean Santiago de la Cruz of the University of the East College of Commerce; Dean Jose Belmonte of the University of the Philippines College of Commerce; Prof. Amado Castro of the University of the Philippines; Filemon C. Rodriguez; Macario Z. Landicho of the Central cooperatives Exchange; Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona; and Rosauo Santiago. Also present were Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, overall performance officer of the President, and Prof. Enrique Fernando.

The President during the *merienda* conference exchanged views on various economic problems with his guests. It was announced that the President would call this economic group again sometime next week and will discuss the problem on marketing.

The conference lasted from 4 p.m. up to about 7 p.m.

At 8 o'clock in the evening, the President motored to the Manila Hotel, where he addressed the annual dinner of the Business Writers Association of the Philippines.

The President handed the plaques at the awarding ceremony which started as soon as the dinner was finished. He congratulated all the BWAP award recipients, as they went to the presidential table to receive their plaques.

Eugenio Lopez received the award as "businessman of 1955" and 37 other businessmen received plaques and certificates for outstanding contributions to businessmen in the Philippines.

About 700 businessmen, industrialists, and government officials attended the 8th annual business awards dinner at the Manila Hotel.

Speaking at the annual dinner of the BWAP, the President defined the economic and fiscal policies of his administration and called them "bold and forward-looking" though "tempered with prudence to assure sound and steady progress towards our goals."

He came out strongly against public borrowing, devaluation of the peso, and relaxation of exchange and import controls.

The President said that there had been many plans and programs for national development since liberation, but that these plans had not been "translated into practical financial terms and backed by well-defined fiscal policies to assure their faithful and effective execution."

"Now, for the first time," the President stressed, "we have joined our broad plans for social and economic growth with the specific measures required for their financial and administrative realization."

February 21.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay the morning had a breakfast conference with Congress leaders during which they discussed various pending administration bills aimed at hastening the economic development of the country.

Present at the conference which lasted from 8 to 9:30 a.m. were Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Speaker Protempore Daniel Z. Romualdez, Senate Majority Floor Leader Cipriano Primicias,

House Majority Floor Leader Arturo M. Tolentino, Senators Gil J. Puyat and Francisco A. Delgado, Rep. Godofredo Ramos of Capiz.

FOLLOWING the conference, the President proceeded to his study to receive scheduled callers.

Three delegations of teachers, one from La Union, another from Pampanga, and third from Lipa City, called to request the installation of pre-fab school buildings and artesian wells in their respective localities. The group from La Union was accompanied by Rep. Manuel T. Cases and Gov. Bernardo Gapuz; the one from Pampanga, by Gov. Rafael Lazatin; and that from Lipa City, by their principal teacher, Paciano Publico.

Officers of the Jose Rizal College Alumni Association headed by its president, Conrado Sevilla, invited the Chief Executive to attend the alumni participation in the anniversary celebration of the institution on February 26.

Officials of the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation (PAAF) called to present a "Certificate of Election" naming the President an honorary president of the federation because of his interest in sports. Antonio de las Alas, PAAF president who handed the certificate, informed the Chief Executive that the federation was embarking upon a new program of encouraging sports in the rural areas as a means of helping improve the health of the people in outlying communities.

A delegation from Alcala, Cagayan, accompanied by Rep. Felipe Garduque requested financial aid for the municipality. In the course of the call, Mayor Isaac Villegas Ty, who had won as an independent candidate in Alcala last elections was sworn into the Nacionalista Party by the President.

A large delegation of farmers from Cauayan, Isabela, asked for the release of a 400-hectare land previously reserved for a military camp site, and its distribution to some 150 families now working on the government property. The President promptly ordered the preparation of a proclamation releasing the land to the farmers.

The President received callers up to 1 p.m.

Other delegations were those of businessmen headed by Harry Stonehill and Peter Lim, who signified their intention to plant cotton in a large scale; the League of Philippine Architects headed by Rufino Antonio; four Bulacan mayors headed by Board Member Serafin Gonigondon; a delegation from Burawen, Leyte, accompanied by Rep. Domingo Veloso and Mayor Eduardo Bugho; from Naic, Cavite, accompanied by Rep. Jose T. Cajulis; from Iloilo City, headed by Sen. Jose Zulueta and City Mayor Rodolfo Ganzon; from Mauban, Quezon, headed by Rep. Manuel Enverga and Mayor Amado Clemente; from Laguna, headed by Rep. Wenceslao Lagumbay and Gov. Dominador Chipeco; from Nueva Ecija, headed by Gov. Amado Aleta; from Pangasinan led by Gov. Conrado Estrella; and from Bohol, accompanied by Rep. Esteban Bernido.

Among individual callers were Sen. Roseller T. Lim; Reps. Leonardo Perez of Nueva Vizcaya, Alberto Q. Ubay of Zamboanga del Norte, and Vicente L. Peralta of Sorsogon; and Gov. Emerald Eco of Camarines Norte.

IN the afternoon the President told the delegates to the First World Abaca Conference that the Philippine Government was doing its best to increase the abaca production of the country. He said that he would release at the proper time the balance of P18 million in the appropriation for the Abaca Corporation of the Philippines for this purpose.

The Chief Executive made these remarks during an informal talk with the delegates whom he honored with cocktails at Malacañang. The delegates came from eight countries, including Philippines, and were led by Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez and Agriculture Undersecretary Jaime N. Ferrer, chairman of the executive committee.

During the informal talk with the delegates, the President exchanged views on some aspects of the abaca industry. He welcomed the delegates and expressed the hope that the conference would prove beneficial to the abaca industry.

February 22.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning conferred with National Economic Council Chairman Alfredo Montelibano, who reiterated his tender of resignation to the Chief Executive. The conference took place at the President's study. The President accepted Montelibano's resignation with regret.

Malacañang issued this morning the following statement regarding the acceptance of Montelibano's resignation by the President.

"With regret, President Magsaysay this morning was constrained to accept the resignation of Alfredo Montelibano as acting chairman of the National Economic Council after the latter reiterated his tender of resignation during a conference with the Chief Executive.

"In accepting Montelibano's resignation, President Magsaysay said that he highly appreciated the former NEC chairman's contribution to the Administration.

"The President succeeded in convincing Montelibano to make himself available for a Cabinet position in the future."

THEN the President conferred with Sam M. Nickey, Jr., president of the Nickey Brothers, Inc., of Memphis, Tennessee U.S.A.; and Charles P. Cobb, vice-president and general manager of the same company, who were accompanied to Malacañang by former Secretary Antonio de las Alas.

During the conference, Nickey told the President that Filipinos were being trained at his plant in Memphis, to manufacture plywood. The Nickey company is one of the biggest buyers of the Philippine lumber.

The President said that he was interested in the development of the lumber industry in the Philippines because it is an industry in which utilizes local raw materials.

Afterwards the President conferred with Gov. Jose Briones of Cebu and Cebu City Mayor Sergio Osmeña, Jr., on the needs of the province and the city of Cebu. The President invited Mayor Osmeña to sit down at the Cabinet meeting as a guest.

At 10:40 a.m., the President proceeded to the family dining room, where he presided over the Cabinet meeting.

The meeting lasted until 1:10 p.m. Invited to attend the Cabinet meeting were Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, overall performance officer of the President, Acting Director of Fisheries Heracleo R. Montalban, and Cebu City Mayor Sergio Osmeña, Jr.

President Magsaysay and the Cabinet today approved a new policy allowing titles to be issued to applicants for public lands not in excess of 144 hectares, provided that all such areas are fully planted, cultivated, and developed. This new policy amended a previous one limiting the grant of such titles to only 10 hectares.

The President directed the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources to implement the new policy regarding the issuance of titles for public lands. He said that compliance with the conditions should be ascertained by the department before issuing the title to these lands. This new policy was deemed necessary in justice to families with several children who have succeeded in planting, cultivating, and developing public lands which they had acquired. It was pointed out that the new policy will enable children of large families to own reasonable areas for themselves to enable them to enjoy a more abundant means of livelihood.

The President told Director Montalban to step up the efforts of the government in increasing its production of fish in order that the country may become self-sufficient in its fish supply and eventually eliminate importation of canned fish.

He suggested that Filipino fishermen in Alaska who are well vexed in tuna fishing and who have 32 fishing boats and equipment, be invited to come to the Philippines to develop the country's fishing industry. Immediately after the Cabinet meeting, Montalban called a meeting of his staff to implement the President's directive.

The President told Undersecretary Crisol to fly to Burias Island, Albay, tomorrow, together with representatives of the Department of Health, the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority, and the Department of Public Works and Communications to Survey the living conditions and need of the people on that island.

According to a telegram sent to Malacañang by Lucena Padilla of San Pascual, Burias, the island does not have any road, artesian well, electric light, radio sets, veterinarian, agronomist, puericulture center, nurse, wharf, or public market. The President instructed Crisol to check of these deplorable living conditions of the people of that island so that necessary action can be taken to provide them with their essential needs. The President directed that the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office allot the sum of P10,000 for the construction of a puericulture center on that island.

The President and the Cabinet approved the unanimous selection of Silvestre Sabado of Pagadian, Zamboanga del Sur, as the National Barrio Farmer of the Year 1955-56.

According to the findings of the committee which made the selection, Sabado had begun farming independently from his parents, acquiring a homestead of 12 hectares from the government. By hard work and thrift and the adoption of improved farming methods, he was able to produce more than what his family needed and was able to sell his surplus farm products. He was able to buy his own farm implements and work animals consisting of seven carabaos, ten plows, six harrows, one irrigation pump, one iron crusher for sugar cane, and two rice and corn mills. Through his accumulated savings, Sabado was able to acquire more hectares of land that at present he has an aggregate landholding of 27 hectares.

In spite of his being only a seventh grade graduate, he practices diversified farming – planting rice, sugar cane, corn, and coconut in addition to having a fruit tree orchard and home gardening, poultry, and piggery. He has improved his rice production from 45 cavanes to 60 cavanes per hectare through the adoption of better rice culture.

Sabado is a co-founder and director of a local FACOMA, a member of the barrio council PTA. It was found by the committee through an on-the-spot assessment of Sabado's assets that he is now worth P76,250.

The committee which made the selection is chaired by Domingo B. Paguirigan.

February 23.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay accepted today "with regret" the resignation of Salvador Araneta as a member of the National Economic Council.

At the same time he designated Andres Hizon, board chairman of the Manila Railroad Co. and director of the coast and geodetic survey, as executive director of the National Economic Council.

Malacañang denied that Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona had been named "executive officer" of the NEC. Hizon's appointment made this clear.

The Palace further clarified that the trip of R.F.C. Chairman Eduardo Romualdez to the United States was being undertaken with his own funds and in a private capacity. Romualdez's trip, said Press Secretary J.V. Cruz, has nothing to do with the current U.S. mission of Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno. He stressed Cuaderno will remain in the United States as long as necessary for the successful completion of his mission.

MEANWHILE, the President this morning received Frederic Hartman and Eric Anderson, visiting executives of the Irving Trust Company of New York, who called to pay their respects. They were accompanied by Acting Deputy Governor Nicanor Tomas of the Central Bank, Fred Ruiz Castro of the PNB board of directors, Jose Cojuangco,

Felix de la Costa and Jose Fernandez of the Philippine Bank of Commerce, and Alfonso Calalang, president of the Bankers' Association of the Philippines.

During the call which lasted from 8 to 9 a.m., the President exchanged impressions with his visitors on various economic problems of the country. He did not receive any other callers. He spent the rest of the morning in the family dining hall, where he went over a pile of pending state papers.

IN the afternoon, the President appealed vigorously to the Filipino people to patronize products manufactured by Filipino brains and brawn.

"We should produce the essential things which we need and, what is more, we should buy made-in-the-Philippines products in order that we can strengthen the economy of our country," the President emphasized.

The President was the guest speaker at the Economic Nationalism Movement rally held at the Luneta this afternoon, highlighting the celebration of Philippine Industry Week sponsored by the Philippine Chamber of Industries. His speech followed a parade participated in by industrial workers and laborers and ROTC cadets, which lasted from 3:55 to 5:40 p.m.

Fernando E.V. Sison, acting president of the Philippine Chamber of Industries, in introducing the President said, "Your economic pronouncements have given us encouragement to face the inherent trials and attendant problems of industrial development in an under-developed economy such as ours." He expressed confidence that with Divine guidance, the President "will be able to steer successfully our economic policies."

A feature of the program following the parade on the Luneta was the presentation of locally made hats to the President and members of the Cabinet. Gabriel Daza, president of the National Economic Protectionism Association (NEPA), printed a Lukban hat which the President immediately put on approvingly.

The President was fetched from Malacañang by Messrs. F.E.V. Sison and A.B. Isip of the PCI. The President was accompanied by his aide, Major Jose Estrella.

Speaking extemporaneously in Tagalog, the President said they every Filipino should love things that are Philippine in order that the spirit of nationalism could be fostered among the people. He said it was the duty of every patriotic Filipino to patronize Philippine-made products as this was one way of encouraging Filipino industries and providing jobs to Filipino workers.

The President said that he was personally practicing what he preached on this matter, as he wore and used Philippine products. "We should take great pride in wearing, using, and consuming products made by the brain, brawn, and sweat of our Filipino countrymen," he said.

The President called attention to the fact that he was wearing Philippine-made shoes which, he said, were as good as foreign-made ones. He said he took pride in doing so. He added that in order to popularize the use of the *barong tagalog* and to encourage the growth of this industry, instead of wearing a formal cut-away on his inauguration on December 30, 1953, he wore the local *barong tagalog*.

The President's appeal for patronizing local industries found enthusiastic response from the big audience which gave him several applause in the course of his extemporaneous speech.

The President pointed out that although the Government was encouraging the growth of industrialization, this should go hand in hand with the country's agricultural development. "We should increase our production both in the farm and in the factories," the President said. He added that by increasing agricultural production the farmers who form the great bulk of the people will have increased buying capacity to purchase the output of the factories.

The President said that the Government was doing its best to protect local industries by means of gradually cutting the importation of materials which were being manufactured locally. He also said that in his desire to develop the ramie industry in order to provide work for hundreds and to enable the great majority of the people to wear high quality and cheap clothes, plans were on the way to put up three ramie plants in Mindanao.

The President's speech lasted from 5:42 to 5:57 p.m. From the Luneta, the President motored back to Malacañang.

February 24.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning told superintendents and principals of vocational schools that the country's economic progress was retarded by lack of vocationally trained people to handle factory and agricultural machineries.

The vocational superintendents and principals, who are in conference, paid a call on the President. They presented a resolution pledging their support of the Administration's economic policies and requesting several measures designed to improve the vocational schools.

The President decried the low regard of society toward graduates of vocational schools. He said that "people who work with their hands are despised in our country with a very few exception." He asked the vocational schools officials to get change "this attitude to our vocational graduates."

The President urged vocational schools officials to raise the standard of vocational education and told them not to supply the country with half-baked graduates. He cited that the need for vocationally-trained people was growing with the country's enlarging industries and merchandized agriculture. Vocational graduates, he said, should come out of their schools prepared to tackle their jobs.

One of the things requested by the superintendents and principals was the creation and appointment of an undersecretary of education for vocational education. The President expressed agreement with them.

The Chief Executive showed the vocational schools officials a sample of the cotton being planted in the Ilocos provinces and urged them to try cotton in the agricultural schools. He said he wanted the government agricultural schools to be the forerunners in raising improved cotton.

The President also deplored the lack of appreciation among the Filipinos for local products. He said that it would be difficult to improve the country's economic condition "if we prefer imported materials to our local products."

The Chief Executive said that he will give recognition to graduates of vocational schools who distinguish themselves in their respective lines. He added that he would invite them some day to a meeting in Malacañang.

The vocational schools superintendents and principals who called were headed by Jose Roldan, president of their association, and Dr. Pedro Guiang, second assistant director of the Bureau of Public Schools.

The President forwarded their resolution to Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., for immediate study and recommendation. After talking to them, the President invited the vocational officials to go with him to Camp Murphy, where he presented awards to 16 outstanding farmers.

THE President left Malacañang with Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao at 10 a.m. and was met at Camp Murphy with a 21-gun salute. After saluting the guard of honor, the President proceeded directly to the grandstand and after a short while awarded medals to 17 awardees.

The President awarded the Philippine Legation of Honor (Commander) to Tarciano Rizal of Calamba, Laguna, and the Philippine Legion of Honor (Legionnaire) to 16 farmers for their accomplishments in the field of agriculture in 1955 and for "having set a pattern worthy of emulation."

The 16 farmers, including the National Barrio Farmer of the Year, Silverio Sabado of Pagadian, Zamboanga del Sur, were cited for their “ability to produce high yields of rice through sheer industry and application of accepted principles of agricultural science.”

Tarciano Rizal, a distant relative of Dr. Jose P. Rizal, was cited for meritorious service to the Armed Forces by pinpointing the hideouts of Huks and the members of the Communist Party from September 1 to October 18, 1950, and for courageously identifying top Politburo members.

A parade was held in Camp Murphy participated in by units of the Armed Forces, including the Philippine contingent that represented the country in the SEATCO war games in Thailand.

The farmers who received the Philippine Legion of Honor (Legionnaire) were: Cornelio Telan of Abian, Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya; Wenceslao Villanueva of Lamo, Dupax, Nueva Vizcaya; Baldomero Ranjo of Almaguer, Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya; Augusto Dedinas of San Agustin, Iriga, Camarines Sur; Luis Guevarra of Mining, Angeles, Pampanga; Cornelio Feliciano of Teringsing, Cordon, Isabela; Crispin de Vera of Lapogon, Tumawini, Isabela; Albertine Mostrales of Lumbingan, Midsayap, Cotabato;

Sebastian Cruz of San Nicolas, Magalang, Pampanga; Lucio Lagyap of San Jose, Iriga, Camarines Sur; Joaquin Mostrales of Lumbingan, Midsayap, Cotabato; Pedro Villanueva of San Fernando, Alicia, Isabela; Jose Mercado of Cardina, Naga City; Pastor Perez of Carolina, Naga City; David Perez of Carolina, Naga City; and Silvestre Sabado of Tawagan Norte, Pagadian, Zamboanga del Sur.

IN the afternoon, the President officiated at the ground breaking ceremonies of the P3,180,000 Sta. Cruz-Mabacan river irrigation project in Pila,, Laguna.

At 3:45 p.m. the President pushed the lever from an improvised stage, which detonated a fuse a few hundred feet away and thus broke the ground, symbolizing the start of work on the project.

Among those present at the ceremonies were Laguna Gov. Dominador Chipeco, Reps. Jacobo Gonzales and Wenceslao R. Lagumbay, Pila Mayor Luis Carillo, Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, Public Works Undersecretary Rafael Contreras, Public Works Director Julian Buendia, NAMARCO General Manager Manuel J. Gonzalez, AFP Chief of Staff Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, and Brig. Gen. Alfredo Santos, 2nd MA commanding general.

In an extemporaneous speech in Tagalog, President Magsaysay announced before hundreds of farmers and townspeople of Pila that the Administration was engaged in gigantic irrigation projects being undertaken simultaneously in various strategic places of the country. He said that he had asked Congress for P100 million for the purpose, with the end in view of making the Philippines not only self-sufficient in its staple crop of rice but also in the future to export this commodity to other countries.

The President said that out of 27 irrigation projects whose blueprints had already been finished, 18 with an aggregate cost of P60 million were already put to bid and work in them would be started soon.

The President said that the Sta. Cruz-Mabacan river irrigation project would irrigate 6,000 hectares and benefit the towns of Pila, Victoria, Sta. Cruz, Calauan, Lilio, Nagcarlan, Bay and Los Baños.

The Chief Executive said that having come from a family which grew up on a farm, he knew the problems of the farmers, especially the lack of irrigation which would spell the doom of their rice crops. As such, he said, he was exerting very effort in carrying out the government project of providing as many irrigation systems throughout the country so that farmers could raise more than one crop during the year and thus increase rice production and improve their financial condition.

The President was applauded several times in the course of his 20-minute speech. He was introduced by Gov. Chipeco, who paid tribute to his great desire in improving the living conditions of the people, especially those in the rural areas.

The ceremonies over, the President proceeded to the Pila municipal government building, where *merienda* was served by the local officials.

On his way back to Manila, the President made a few minutes stopover at the 24th BCT camp and at Camp Vicente Lim, headquarters of the 2nd MA.

The President also found time to inaugurate a new P8,500-barrio school in barrio Platero, Biñan. Met at the barrio junction by the townspeople, the President, accompanied by Reps. Gonzales and Lagumbay and Biñan Mayor Jesus Garcia, walked almost a kilometer to the barrio to officiate at the inauguration ceremonies.

On his way to the barrio, the President stopped several times to talk to women workers who were engaged in home hat-making industry and to several farmers who had just finished sacking their newly threshed paddy. He was met at the school house by Mrs. Elena L. Benjamin, head teacher, and Fr. Estanislao Cabrera, who officiated at the blessing of the school.

The President left Malacañang at 1:10 p.m. He was accompanied by NAMARCO Manager Manuel J. Gonzalez, Rep. Gonzales, Secretary Balao, Gen. Vargas, Appointments Secretary Marcelino Calinauan, Assistant Press Secretary Guillermo V. Sison, and Capt. Agerico Palaypay, presidential aide.

The presidential party was met on the way to the town of Bay by Gov. and Mrs. Chipeco, Rep. Lagumbay, and Gen. Santos. Upon arriving at the Victoria road junction, the President was stopped by a delegation which greeted him and placed leis on him.

Halfway to the town of Pila, the presidential Chrysler car developed trouble and the President had to transfer to Gen. Vargas' car.

The President got off his car one kilometer away from the grounders of the population. He was wearing the *Lukban* hat which had been given him during the NEPA celebration yesterday afternoon at the Luneta.

The presidential party returned to Malacañang at 6:45 p.m.

February 25.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today instructed Governor Miguel Cuaderno of the Central Bank to negotiate for a dollar loan in the United States for the purchase of two ramie plants to be installed in Mindanao with the view to cutting down the importation of textiles which amounts to millions of pesos a year.

The President sent his instructions by cable to Governor Cuaderno who is currently on a mission in Washington D.C. He said that Cuaderno would remain in the U.S. as long as necessary for the successful completion of his mission.

The President also considered the purchase of modern equipment for the manufacture of cigars to enable the country to fill its export quota with the U.S. He said that the Philippines has never been able to fill its yearly quota owing to antiquated production machinery.

The Chief Executive did not receive any other caller this morning.

IN the course of his conference with Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma in the morning, the President expressed his desire to inquire from the Tabacalera whether it would be willing to put up modern cigar factory in Cagayan. He asked Secretary Ledesma to get in touch with Tabacalera officials.

The President today certified to the Court of Industrial Relations the labor disputes between the:

(1) Hind Labor Union (PLUM) and Hind Sugar Company; and

(2) The Pasumil Workers Union and the Pampanga Sugar Mills.

The President was informed by Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevosoo of the existence of strikes in the two companies which are still going on and not yet settled to the satisfaction of all concerned.

In his letter to the CIR the President said that the sugar industry was indispensable to the national interest and that the continuance of the strikes would adversely affect the national economy.

The Hind Labor Union declared a strike against the Hind Sugar Company on February 4, 1956, while the Pasumil Workers Union declared a strike against the Pampanga Sugar Mills last February 12.

The President requested the Court of Industrial Relations to take immediate appropriate steps in the exercise of its powers granted by law.

February 26.—THE PRESIDENT discussed for two and a half hours with representatives of private sectors of the country's economy and heads of government fiscal agencies effective means of increasing production of basic commodities.

The President explained that the economic conference had been called to determine the roadblocks that sowed down production so that these problems could be cooperatively studied and practical solutions to them found.

Among the points taken up at the conference, in which the President played a leading part, were the problems causing the below-par production of essential and basic products; such as, (1) rice, (2) fish, (3) lumber, (4) basic metals, (5) cattle, and (6) abaca.

With the President presiding over the discussions, the conferees exchanged freely their views and stated their problems which boiled down to financing and in some cases to problems of transportation and technical know-how.

The President expressed satisfaction that representatives of government fiscal agencies were given the opportunity to hear first hand these various obstacles impeding abundant production. The conference listened to the discussions with understanding and were inclined to act on the proposed solutions more sympathetically.

The conference started off with a discussion on how to increase the production of rice and fish. The President explained that the government had long ago started a vigorous food production campaign. With regard to rice, he said that out of the P100 million he had asked Congress for new irrigation projects, 18 projects with an aggregate cost of P60 million were already put to bid and work on them would be started soon. He said that orders were already placed for the importation of 42" pipes to be used in deep well irrigation systems in Central Luzon to be run by electricity coming from the Ambuklao hydroelectric project. Irrigation, plus the use of fertilizers and more enlightened rice-farming methods, the President said, would tremendously increase rice production.

To this, Manuel V. Gallego, president of the Rice Growers Association, suggested that small dredges be used in Central Luzon and that more areas be opened to rice planting. He added that one imperative need of the rice industry was the industrialization of rice by-products. HE said machinery for this purpose was available in Japan. Rice growers would not mind over-population of rice, he added, if rice by-products could be turned into more useful commodities as this would mean additional incomes to them.

Regarding increased fish production, Prof. Felipe Roman of the University of the Philippines said that there was need for fishing boats and equipment for deep-sea fishing. He said this was the easiest way to increase fish supply, as all that was necessary was to go out to sea properly equipped and after several hours the fishermen got their catch.

Atty. Juan T. David, who is engaged in large-scale fishpond industry, said that a modern refrigerator was badly needed to store the fish so that it could be preserved and distributed to different parts of the country when needed. He complained that the Central Bank had not given him yet the needed dollars.

The President said that both deep-sea fishing and the fishpond industry would be encouraged by the government. He said fishing boats were included in the Japanese reparations. Filipino “tuna” fishermen in Alaska were being invited to the Philippines to help build the industry, and the government had already sent survey teams throughout the country before leasing some 100,000 hectares as fishponds. He advised the formation of fishpond cooperatives so that the fishpond industry could be merchandized. He said he would look into the financial problems of the industry.

Former Secretary Antonio de las Alas, president of the Lumber Producers Association, told the President that Philippine lumber has jumped from the seventh to the third position as an export product and that it could be a greater source of dollars provided lumbermen could get needed machinery. He also deplored the high cost of shipping. Former NEC Chairman Filemon C. Rodriguez pointed out the urgency of knowing how to utilize all lumber by-products as done in other countries.

The President said that he had been very interested in the development of the lumber industry and as a matter of fact had hurried the development of agriculture in the release of lumber concessions, avoiding red tape. He said that government financial agencies would give more sympathetic leaning to these financial needs of the industry.

De las Alas also brought to the attention of the conferees the need of encouraging the production of more base metals which abound in the country. He urged the Bureau of Mines to do some prospecting. He mentioned the fact that only recently a private party had discovered molybdenum.

Former Secretary Mariano Garchitorena, president of the Abaca and Other Fibers Federation, expounded on the need for additional funds to help in the industrialization and better production of abaca. He said that among others abaca fibers could be used in the manufacture of nets for deep-sea fishing. The President recalled that he had already announced the release of P18 million at the proper time to help the abaca planters.

Garchitorena also urged the government to buy more bulls from India to improve the local stock. In this connection, the President said that the Bureau of Animal Industry was implementing “Operation Dispersal” through which farmers were being lent improved stocks of cattle for breeding purposes. He added that artificial insemination among local cattle was one way of improving the stock, but that he considered Garchitorena’s suggestion of importing India bulls as very worthwhile.

The conference was held at the Malacañang porch and lasted from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The President said he was glad that many of the problems which retarded local production were brought to light and that solutions were offered to overcome them. He requested all those who participated in the discussion to submit to him a brief memorandum on the points brought out so that he could study them and then submit them officially to the National Economic Council for further study and action.

The President said that he would meet the same group next Sunday. He said that he would call members of the different chambers of commerce for a similar conference sometime next week in order to pinpoint procedural roadblocks and bottlenecks which hampered implementation of economic policies.

Those who attended the conference were:

Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma; Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona; Alfonso Calalang, president of the Bankers Association; former NEC Chairman Filemon C. Rodriguez, Mariano Garchitorena, president of the Abaca and Other Fibers Federation; Antonio de las Alas, president of the Lumber Procedures Association; Manuel Elizalde, president of the Philippine Sugar Association; Manuel Gallego, present of the Rice Growers Association; Dean Vicente Sinco, acting member of the Monetary Board;

Acting CB Governor Nicanor Tomas; Gregorio S. Licaros and R. Marino Corpus of the CB import-export department; Mrs. Fanny Garcia, director of the CB department of economic research; Mrs. Belen Gutierrez, FEU Board of Trustees chairman; Dean Mariano B. Apacible of the UST College of Commerce; Dean Jose Belmonte of the UP College of Commerce; Prof. Amado Castro of the UP; Prof. Isauro Santiago; Pacifico Vililla, president of the Philippine College of Commerce;

Prof. Macario Z. Landicho of the CEU and the Central marketing Exchange; Joseph Perez de Tagle, president of the Davao Philippine Chamber of the Commerce; Jose Carpio of the Philippine Association; Caesar Lanuza, director of the planning of the NEC; Benito Legarda, Jr., CB economist Armando Fabella of the survey commission; Vicente Fabella; Prof. Felipe Roman, UP; Reynaldo Farralts, engaged in fishing and pasture; and Atty. Juan T. David.

Also present were Prof. Enrique M. Fernando and Assistant Press Secretary Guillermo V. Sison.

The President also met this morning Gov. Juan Frivaldo of the Sorsogon and the both discussed the problems in his province.

At noontime, the President attended the foundation day of his Alma Mater, Jose Rizal College. He had lunch with the prominent alumni of the college. He was accompanied by his aid, Maj. Pat Garcia.

LATE in the evening, the President was visited by group of Liberals who tried to attach some political significance to the resignation of Alfredo Montelibano and Salvador Araneta as chairman and member, respectively, of the National Economic Council.

The Liberals, who expressed a desire to join the majority party, made overtures for turning NPs in the event of a political realignment as a result of the Montelibano and Araneta resignations.

President Magsaysay, while expressing satisfaction over the enthusiasm of some oppositionists to join the majority party, denied that the Montelibano and Araneta resignations would cause a ripple in the political alignment

Among those who saw the President in the evening were former Reps. Cesar Miraflor, Hermenegildo Atienza, Sebastian Moll, and Dennis Molintas.

February 27.—THE PRESIDENT received this morning the members of the Davao Ramie Planters Association, led by Ricardo Ledesma, who discussed with him the early establishment of the ramie factory here. The ramie planters said that they had more than enough supply of raw ramie for local consumption if the textile were manufactured here.

Ambassador Neri, who was present at the conference, was directed by the President to get in touch with the diplomatic missions of Germany and Switzerland for the possibility of installing here a ramie processing machinery from either of the two European countries. The President was informed by the ramie planter, who had gone to Europe, that Germany and Switzerland were leading in the manufacture of ramie textile.

Gov. Juan Pajo of Bohol presented to the President samples of fine buri products manufactured in Bohol which included table mats, mats screens, and curtains. Impressed by the articles, the President called NAMARCO Manager Manuel Gonzales and told him to advance the money for the manufacture of the buri products.

The President also told Governor Pajo to see Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., for the introduction of the manufacture of the articles in the division of vocational education of the Department of Education. the President told Gov. Pajo that the products were good and could be sold abroad.

The Chief Executive received callers up to 1 p.m. Many of the callers were delegations from the provinces which requested aid for school houses, waterworks irrigation systems, barrio roads, and artesian wells.

Among the provincial delegations that saw the President were Rep. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing, Gov. Jose Dinglasa and mayors from Capiz; Rep. Emilio Cortez and residents of Mexico, Pamapanga; Gov. Rafael Lazatin and farmers from Macabebe, Pampanga; Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez, Rep. Ignacio Cruz, Gov. Vicente de Lara and municipal officials of Misamis Oriental; Sen. Decoroso Rosales and officials of the Tala Leprosarium; Rep. Celestino Juan and farmers from Nueva Ecija; Rep. Rogaciano Mercado, Gov. Alejo Santos, and mayors and municipal councilors of Bulacan; Reps. Salvador Encinas and Vicente Peralta, Gov. Juan Frivaldo, and mayors of Sorsogon; Rep. Fernando Pajarillo, Gov. Esmeraldo Eco, and residents of Camarines Norte; Sen. Alejo Mabanag, Rep. Manuel Cases, Gov. Bernardo Gapuz, and provincial officials of La Union; and Rep. Carlos Tan and mayors from Leyte.

Seven Indonesian police officers, who are here to observe at the NBI and the Manila Police Department, also called on the President accompanied by Col. Mamerto Montemayor. The Indonesian police officers are scheduled to stay here for one month.

The new officers of the CONDA headed by Bert Javier, president, were inducted by the Chief Executive. The CONDA officers, accompanied by Malacañang Technical Assistant Ignacio Debuque, Jr., presented the President with a vase and a Javanese figurine.

Former French Minister to the Philippines Gaston Willoquet was another caller of the President. Willoquet called on the President following Mr. and Mrs. Merville McInnis. McInnis is the president of the McInnis and Company of Washington and vice-president of the Washington State International Trade Fair.

Other callers of the President included Sen. Quintin Paredes; Reps. Francisco Ortega of La Union, Reynaldo Honrado of Surigao, Ombra Amilbangsa of Sulu, and Guillermo Sanchez of Agusan; Gov. Nicanor Maronilla-Seva of Albay, Manuel Baretto of Zambales, and Francisco Infantado of Mindoro Oriental. Brother Gabriel and Brother Charles, famous botanist of De la Salle College also called on the President.

IN behalf of the Philippine Government, President Magsaysay this afternoon received from the United States Government the sum of P150,000 in cash representing part if the proceeds of vested property in the Philippines formerly owned by enemy nationals. The President also received transfer of other vested property, including 17 parcels of land totaling an area of approximately 700,000 square meters located in Manila and Davao City.

The transfer ceremony was held at the Malacañang Council of State room. President Magsaysay and Stanley Gilbert, manager of the Philippine office of the U.S. Office of Alien Property, signed 13 agreements under the provisions of Republic Act No. 8 and under the United States statue known as the Philippine Property Act of 1946. Gilbert handed to the President a check for P150,000.

Other items included in the transfer to the Philippine Government were vested shares of stock of two controlled corporations seven buildings, and approximately 400 items of personal property, including office furniture and equipment and a station wagon.

Dallas S. Townsend, director of the office of Alien Property, U.S. Department of Justice, acting for the attorney general, was represented by Stanley Gilbert, manager of the Philippine Office.

Acting as witnesses and also signing the documents were Foreign Undersecretary Raul S. Manglapus and U.S. Ambassador Homer Ferguson. Also present during the ceremonies were Ambassador Felino Neri, Atty. Prudencio Castillo of the foreign office; Acting Chairman of the Board of Liquidators Filomeno Kintanar; Atty. Eladio Enriquez, member, board of liquidators; Atty. Juan B. Francisco, of the liquidators; Atty. Alfredo Catolico of the Department of Justice; Minister Charles R. Burrows of the U.S. Embassy; Atty Juan T. Santos and Flaviano G. Canuel; and Benjamin de Guzman of the Office of Alien Property.

The transfer ceremony lasted from 4:15 p.m. to 4:40 p.m.

FROM the Council of State room, the President proceeded to the Malacañang porch, where he received a big delegation from Cagayan headed by Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, Gov. Marcelo Adduru, and Reps. Paulino Alonzo and Felipe Garduque. The delegation was composed of 29 mayors and other political leaders of the province.

The Cagayan officials presented to the President problems confronting their people, ranging from the construction of an irrigation system, artesian wells, waterworks, reopening of the port of Aparri, construction of puericulture centers, and the need of pre-fabricated school houses.

The President said that he was glad to be appraised of all the problems of their province so that proper steps could be taken to solve them.

The President said among other things that he planned to establish a cigar factory in Cagayan in order to improve the kind of tobacco locally manufactured, and that he would help in securing loans from the RFC to help the people in their fishpond projects.

THE President today signed Proclamation No. 266, amending a previous proclamation declaring February 22 to 28 (or 29) of every year as Traffic Safety Week, and March 1 of every year as Safe Driving Day.

The previous proclamation was amended by enlisting the assistance of the Manila Drivers Association to cooperate with the National Traffic Commission in taking charge of all arrangements and activities for the fitting celebration of Traffic Safety Week and Safe Driving Day throughout the Philippines. The Commission was authorized to solicit donations in cash or in any kind for the purpose of carrying out the aims of the proclamations.

February 28.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay had a breakfast conference this morning with Mindanao legislators who pledged their support to various administration bills pending in Congress. During the conference which lasted from 8 to 9:30 a.m., the solons also took up with the President problems of their respective localities.

Present were Sens. Emmanuel Pelaez, Domacao Alonto and Roseller T. Lim; and Reps. William Chiongbian of Misamis Occidental, Cesar Fortich of Bukidnon, Reynaldo P. Honrado of Surigao, Ombra Amilbangsa of Sulu, Alberto Ubay of Zamboanga del Norte, Ignacio Cruz of Misamis Oriental, and Guillermo Sanchez of Agusan.

Following the conference, the President received callers at his study.

A large delegation from Pangasinan Poultry Association headed by Ramon Paulino, association president, requested government assistance so as to eliminate alien middlemen who were reportedly controlling the poultry industry. The President immediately called up Col. Osmundo Mondoñedo of the ACCFA and instructed him to study ways of extending immediate aid to poultry raisers all over the country.

A large group of Laguna high school teachers presented a resolution seeking financial assistance for the repair of school buildings in the province. The group, which also included a number of municipal officials, was accompanied by Gov. Dominador Chipeco and Reps. Jacobo Gonzales and Wenceslao Lagumabay.

Swami Pronavananda Sarawasti, a monk and philosopher from India now on a world tour, called to pay his respects. He was accompanied by H.U. Vaswani, president of the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Manila.

A delegation of farmers from the Jala-Jala Tenants Association requested the purchase by the government of a 230-hectare hacienda located in Morong and Cardona, Rizal, and its distribution to tenants. Accompanying the delegation was D.H. Soriano, legal counsel of the association.

Fr. Antonio Gonzalez, secretary-general of the University of Santo Tomas, accompanied a group of student representatives who invited the President to be guest of honor at the 345th anniversary celebration of their institution on March 7. The President accepted the invitation.

Other delegations were those from Calatagan, Batangas, accompanied by Apolinario Apacible; from Iloilo, headed by Gov. Mariano Peñaflorida; for Zamboanga del Norte, headed by Gov. Romulo Garrovillo; from Candelaria, Quezon, accompanied by Rep. Fernando Pajarillo; from Negros Occidental, headed by Gov. Valeriano Gatuslao; and from Jimenez, Misamis Occidental, headed by Mayor Francisco Paylaga.

Among individual callers were Sens. Quintin Paredes and Edmundo B. Cea; Manuel Zosa of Cebu, Ricardo Ladrico of Iloilo, and Gaudencio Abordo of Palawan, and Mayors Simeon Cañenero of Alimodian and Alfonso Espino of Dingle, Iloilo. The President received callers until 12:30 p.m.

The President turned his attention to the poultry industry when a delegation of poultry raisers from Pangasinan called on him this morning with their problems.

During the call, the President conferred with Osmundo Mondoñedo, head of the Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Financing Administration, and directed him to extend ACCFA loans to poultry raisers in the country where they can be served by the farmers cooperative marketing association in the form of feed, payable in the form of eggs.

The President was informed by the ACCFA Administrator that the cooperative agency has set up two refrigeration plants, one in Manila and another in Cabanatuan City.

Mondoñedo said the problem of the poultry industry was national in scope. He said every poultry raiser was at the mercy of traders who in turn were controlled only by one man. Immediate steps are being taken by the ACCFA to break the monopoly, according to Mondoñedo, through the organization of cooperative marketing associations, the construction of storage facilities, and shortly, the extension of credit to poultry raisers.

After conferring with the President, Mondoñedo directed Porfirio Manacop, in charge of the fishery project of the ACCFA, to make representations with the Bureau of Fisheries to transfer immediately to Balatan, Camarines Sur, the one-ton fish grinder which the bureau has in order to modernize the manufacture of fish meal in that area. Should this machinery prove satisfactory, a bigger capacity grinder will be put up in Balatan, he said.

Manacop reported that the country's present consumption requirements of fish meal amounted to 3,000 metric tons. More than this amount can be produced in Balatan provided the producers are given the necessary machinery and credit assistance to expand their production.

The President assured Mondoñedo that as soon as the Balatan project can produce all the fish meal needed by the country, he would direct the Central Bank to cut off the dollar allocations covering the importation of fish meal.

IN the afternoon, the President received members of the National Federation of Sugar Cane Planters who reiterated to him their "loyalty to you not merely in words but in deeds."

This pledge was made through Jose Mapa Gomez, president of the NFSCP, in his brief remarks during the cocktails which the President gave in honor of the sugar people at Malacañang.

In his response, President Magsaysay assured the sugar cane producers that the Government was seriously considering the problems facing the industry. He said that he already knew of these problems and that he had transmitted them to the National Economic Council for consideration and solution.

President Magsaysay added, "I don't want you to suffer."

He said that the resolution by Mr. Gomez reiterating the pledge of loyalty of the sugar cane producers had touched him. He acknowledged a deep sense of gratitude to the sugar cane planters who, he said, had fought together with him for a cause in the past.

The President honored the delegates to the bird national congress of the sugar industry with cocktails at Malacañang this afternoon.

Three resolutions signed by Mr. Gomez together with Manuel Elizalde, president of the Philippine Sugar Association, were presented to the President; namely,

- (1) A resolution of appreciation making of record the sugar industry's appreciation for the President's message and its desire to secure public interest to the fullest practicable extent;
- (2) A resolution for the filing of a petition against the exclusion of Philippine participation in future United States sugar consumption increases; and
- (3) A resolution allowing producers the use of their dollar earnings.

Among the leader of the sugar group who were present at the cocktails were Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma and former National Economic Council Chairman Alfredo Montelibano. Upon seeing Mr. Montelibano, the President greeted him warmly: "How are you, Peding?"

President Magsaysay said that he would be glad to help emergency sugar planters who have no quotas improve their lot by means of planting other crops like garlic, onion, tobacco, and coffee.

The President told the group headed by Rep. Jose Puey and Board Member Alfredo Marañon of Negros Occidental and Rep. Ricardo Y. Ladrado and Col. Julian Chavez of Iloilo that he would be glad to listen to their problems at a breakfast conference in Malacañang on Friday, March 2.

After giving a cocktail party for the sugar planters and millers, the President presided over a two-hour press conference with newsmen at the dining room.

The President told newsmen that he was going along "partly" with Salvador Araneta, former National Economic Council member, by "pumping more money into productive enterprises."

The President referred to Araneta, who resigned last week owing to divergent economic views with the Chief Executive, in answering questions during his weekly news conference in Malacañang.

He went into lengthy explanations of his pet projects, mentioning rice, cotton, rural electrification and irrigation, barrio roads, coffee, goats, and coconut among them.

He said only by going all-out with these projects, which he described as capital investments and self-liquidating, could the Philippines be self-sufficient.

The President made these points in answer to other questions:

1. "We can offer a reward of P1 million" to any Filipino who can devise a process to remove acid from coconut oil. He said coconut oil minus its acid would make the best lubricating oil, thus saving the dollars spent for imports of this new item now.
2. He is still looking for a man to take over the NEC following Alfredo Montelibano's resignation last week as its chairman, also as a result of differences in economic views with the President.
3. He would ask Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno to prepare a bill providing for the automatic corresponding increase in the assessed value of lands benefited by new barrio roads to contribute to their maintenance, thus freeing elective officials from this politically inexpedient job.
4. Araneta, like any other citizen, has the right to take the Central Bank to court if he believed it was liable for any illegal action. Araneta was reported to have charged the CB with illegally imposing foreign exchange restrictions.

5. He is for Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson's campaign to drive vendors from Manila's sidewalks. He said he had told Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon that vendors' petition for Malacañang intercession should never have been endorsed to Lacson.
6. He would appoint "many" judges of courts of first instance in a weeks time, including those for the cities of Quezon, Pasay, and Cavite.

February 29.—THIS morning, President Magsaysay had a two-hour breakfast conference with leaders of Congress. Agreed upon at the conference were the following:

(1) The President will issue a directive to the National Economic Council to study and draft legislation for the re-allocation of exports and administration of products under quota in the U.S. markets in relation to the Laurel-Langley Agreement.

(2) The adoption of Speaker Jose B. Laurel's suggestion for a definition in the tariff billow "critical items: instead of merely mentioning Executive Order No. 150. The tariff bill, pending in Congress, empowers the President to lower or increase tariff rates, and Executive Order No. 150 carries a list of what are considered "critical items".

(3) The foreign investments bill will be given top priority in the conference committee; and

(4) The apprenticeship bill, which is pending in the House, will be amended so as to provide an office for the bill's implementation.

In the tariff bill, Congress leaders said that some of the "critical items" listed in Executive Order No 150 may not be classified as such any more after a few months so that a definition of "critical items" in the bill would be more specific than just mentioning Executive Order No. 150.

The breakfast conference lasted from 8 to 10 a.m. Present were Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Sens. Cipriano Primicias and Jose P. Laurel, Sr., and Reps. Daniel Romualdez and Arturo M. Tolentino.

After the breakfast, the President received Reps. Manuel Cases of La Union, Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur, and Ramon Mitra of Mountain Province and Mayor Alfonso Tabora of Baguio City.

PRESIDENT MAGSAYSAY and the Cabinet today approved the purchase by NAMARCO of local onions in order to stabilize the prize of this commodity and protect onion growers against low prices.

The Cabinet meeting was held at the family dining room and lasted from 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. At the Cabinet meeting, the President:

(1) Disapproved a proposal of Cebu Portland Cement Co. (CEPOC) to tax imported cement at P2.60 per bag;

(2) Authorized the imp oration of 2,000 pounds of sodium fluroacetate to intensify the rat campaign;

(3) Ordered the elimination of red tape in the issuance of visas and the liberalization of regulations regarding entry of tourists to the Philippines; and

(4) Approved the recognition of the Republic of the Philippines of the new state of Sudan.

The President also received a report from Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, the President's overall performance officer, on his inspection of living conditions of the people of Burias Island, Albay.

In the afternoon, the President gave cocktails in honor of Eugene Broderman, director of Far Eastern Affairs, U.S. Department of Commerce, and a member of the American panel which had discussed the changes in the Bell Trade Act with a Filipino counterpart committee.

Mr. Broderman made a stop-over in Manila in the course of a trip to the Far East.

Invited to the cocktails were members of the Philippine panel, presiding officer of both Chambers of Congress, and officials of the U.S. Embassy headed by Ambassador Homer Ferguson.

Former President Elpidio Quirino, second Chief Executive of the Republic of the Philippines, died this evening about 6:30 in his “Hilltop” country retirement home in Novaliches, Rizal, a victim of heart attack.

A heart attack seized the former President as he stood in froth of a mirror in his bedroom after coming from the bathroom. He was 65 years old. He died one day less than two years and two months since he turned over the presidency to Ramon Magsaysay.

President Magsaysay led the nation this evening in mourning the death of his predecessor in office.

“Our people have lost a leader, and I have lost one who never ceased to be a friend and a sincere counsellor,” the President said in a statement issued upon learning of the late President’s death.

President Magsaysay’s statement follows in full:

“I am deeply shocked by the death of former President Quirino.

“I join the Filipino people in paying tribute to a leader who dedicated all his life to the service of his country. President Quirino participated in many of the developments which our progress to democratic maturity and independence, and it was natural that he was finally rewarded with the highest office within the gift of his countrymen—the Presidency.

“In this office, President Quirino labored earnestly and courageously to lift the country from the ruins and prostrations of the last war. The achievements in reconstruction and rehabilitation realized in his time continue to draw to this day the grateful appreciation of our people and the admiration of the sole world.

“Our people have lost a leader and I have lost one who never ceased to be a friend and sincere counselor. A kind Providence designed that we should meet and share some pleasant moments only a few days before he was to pass away, and I shall always cherish the memory of the visit. I know that a grateful people joins me in prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.”

Source: Supreme Court Library

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Official Month in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52 (2), lxix-cvii.

Official Month in Review: March 1956

March 1.—APPARENTLY affected by the death of his processor, former President Elpidio Quirino, President Magsaysay cancelled scheduled callers this day. He also issued Proclamation No. 269, declaring the period from March 1 to 15, 1956, as a period of national mourning for “our beloved former President.” During this period, flags of all government buildings and installations throughout the Philippines shall be flown at half-mast.

Moreover, the President directed Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon to attend to the details of the funeral arrangements and burial of the late President Quirino.

AT 9:30 a.m., the President left Malacañang for the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority on Arroceros Streets. Arriving there a few minutes later, he founds that Susano R. Negado, general manager, was not in his office. An assistant informed the President that Negado had gone to Congress with Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno.

NAWASA Assistant Manager Jesus Perlas and Chief Engineer Gaudioso Cruel explained to the President various plans the firm had to avert impending water shortage in the metropolitan area. The President stayed in the NAWASA office for about 30 minutes.

The President ordered the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority to rush improvements on the Ipo Dam in Bulacan designed to increase its output from 90 million to about 110 million gallons a day.

Concerned over the reported possibility of water shortage due to lack of rainfall during the past year, the President ordered work on the Ipo project started right away and continued on a 24-hour basis until completed.

Previous plans of the NAWASA was for the construction of an additional dam at Montalban with an estimated output of 23 million gallons a day at an expense of P1,800,000. Perlas said that the additional supply would be sufficient to meet the increased needs in the metropolitan area.

On being informed, however, that the new dam would take about a year to finish, the President ordered the suspension of the project and instructed NAWASA officials to concentrate on the Ipo Dam project, telling them to complete it within a month.

“Water is very important to the people and we cannot afford to take any chances,” the President said. “I want to have men work on the Ipo project day and night until it is finished.”

NAWASA officials attributed the impending water shortage to lack of rainfall during the rainy season of 1995 which recorded only 51.2 inches of rainfall, the lowest in 10 years. Alfredo Ocampo, NAWASA technical assistant, said that last year’s rainfall was even lower than that of 1949 which was 74.2 inches.

FROM the NAWASA office, the President motored to Camp Murphy, where he was guest of honor at the 2nd anniversary celebration of the P10 million Base Shop of the Armed Forces where miscellaneous heavy and light equipment were being rebuilt and repaired. The President spent about two hours visiting different automotive shops housed in 15 modern buildings erected on a 16-hectare lot along Santolan Road near Camp Murphy.

Arriving at the Base Shop about 10:30 a.m., the President was asked to press the switch which started the assembly of a rebuilt jeep all of whose parts had been salvaged from a junk heap. After one and one-half hours, the assembled jeep was presented to the President who drove it several times around the arena.

“Say, this is as good as new,” he explained, impressed by the performance of the rebuilt vehicle. Accompanying him in the jeep test were Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, and Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo, presidential aide.

The President today, issued an executive order, authorizing the Base Shop to undertake rebuilt, repair, and manufacturing work for all government offices and agencies, including those charged with the implementation of the Administration's rural development program. During his visit trucks in various stages of rebuilding, earmarked for the construction of feeder roads and the establishment of settlement areas by the Department of Public Works and Communications and the NARRA.

The President was impressed by the modern tools and machinery he found in the shops. He was shown around the place by Col. Francisco Licuanan, Jr., base commander. Leaving the base about 1 p.m., The President congratulated the officers and men who, according to him, were operating the shops with clockwork efficiency.

"I am proud of you all. Keep up the good work. This shop is something we can all be proud of in this country," he said.

The President had lunch in Camp Murphy after visiting the base shops. Accompanying him on his inspection trips were speaker Protempore Daniel Z. Romualdez, Leyte Gov. Bernardo Torres, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff, and Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao. He returned to Malacañang about 1:30 p.m.

March 2.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay had breakfast with Rep. Jose Puey and planters from Sagay, Negros Occidental, this morning. The Negros planters told the President they were planting citrus and coffee and asked if they could be extended help by the government.

Upon hearing of the Negros planers' plan, the President immediately contacted Jose Camus, RFC governor, and asked him to come to Malacañang.

When Camus arrived at the Palace, he was told by the President to consider granting a loan to the Negros planters.

Rep. Puey and the planters also requested the President to extend "Operation Dispersal" to their province for the improvement of their cattle and carabao breed.

According to the planers, they would devote around 10,000 hectares to coffee and citrus. They also informed the President that they would form cooperatives among themselves and also among those engaged in the fishing industry in Sagay.

The President was pleased with the plans of the Sagay planters and directed RFC Governor Camus to determine as soon as possible the amount of loan that could be granted to the coffee and citrus planters. He also ordered Susano Negado, general manager of the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority, to rush the completion of the waterworks system in Sagay.

Those present at the breakfast were ACCFA Administrator Col. Osmundo Mondoñedo, Negros Occidental provincial board member, Alfredo Maraño; Arturo Piccio, president of the planters; Manuel Jover, Efrain Santibañez, Jose Strachan, Mrs. Luisa Pfleider, Mr. and Mrs. Angel Villasor, and Julian Chavez.

After the breakfast, the President received provincial officials of Leyte who requested financial and material aid for their public works projects. The officials included Speaker Protempore Daniel Romualdez, Reps. Alberto Aguja and Carlos Tan, Gov. Bernardo Torres, ex-Rep. Dominador Tan, and Mateo Canonoy and some mayors.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today directed the Social Welfare Administration and the Philippine National Red Cross to rush aid to the victims of the fire that had razed the commercial block and many residential houses in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, early this morning.

Immediately upon receiving the order of the President, SWA Acting Head Amparo P. Villamor proceeded to Sta. Cruz with relief goods. The President was informed of the fire by Laguna Gov. Dominador Chipeco, who said in his telegram that the loss in the "biggest fire" that ever hit the capital town was around P2 million.

Rep. Wenceslao R. Lagumbay called on the President and also informed him of the fire which lasted from 2 a.m. to 7 a.m., today. Lagumbay said that the fire also gutted the public market.

THE body of the late President Quirino was brought to Malacañang at 3 p.m. today where it will lie in state at the ceremonial hall until Sunday morning.

A few minutes before 3 p.m. the funeral coach stopped in front of Gate 4 and the flag-draped casket containing the remains was lowered and carried by 12 Malacañang guards through Gate 2 to the front of Malacañang Palace. The casket was laid on a bier for a few minutes before being brought up to the Palace. The National Anthem was played as the casket was brought out of the funeral coach and again upon its arrival in front of the Palace.

Immediate members of the family of the late President, composed of Mr. and Mrs. Chito Gonzalez, Mr. and Mrs. Tomas Quirino, Ex-Judge and Mrs. Antonio Quirino, Ex-Governor and Mrs. Eliseo Quirino, Mrs. Mila Syquia Mendoza, and Mrs. Ernesto Quirino followed the casket to the front of the palace, where a company of the Presidential Guards Battalion stood to give military honors.

Mrs. Luz Banzon Magsaysay, together with Protocol Officer Manuel G. Zamora and Fr. Nicolas Ortega, chief of Army chaplains, stood at the stairs as the casket was brought up by the Malacañang guards.

Mrs. Magsaysay accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Chito Gonzalez as they followed the casket to the ceremony hall.

Beyond the casket was a temporary altar where a Pontifical Requiem mass will be said.

After Fr. Ortega had performed religious rites, Mrs. Magsaysay and Vicky, the late President's daughter, stood at the side of the casket to pay their homage and say a prayer. Then the ceremonial hall was opened to the public to pay their homage to the late President.

Hanging against the wall, at the right side of the entrance to the ceremonial hall was the oil painting of the late President, draped with black lace. The cardinal red draperies at the ceremonial hall were covered with gray ones. Four Malacañang guards stood vigil at the casket and the guards were changed every 30 minutes.

Among the intimates of the late President present immediately upon the arrival of the remains were former Chief Justice and Mrs. Manuel V. Moran; former Secretaries Joaquin Elizalde, Pablo Lorenzo, Cecilio Putong, and Mariano Garchitorena, Mrs. Asuncion Perez, former SWA administrator; former Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista; former Assistant Executive Secretary Jose P. de Leon; former Senator Enrique Magalona; former Private Secretary Juan Collas and former Assistant Private Secretary Juanito Gella; former Malacañang Guard Commander Col. Salvador Babista; former presidential aides, Col. Joaquin Hidalgo and Major Luis Adae; former chief of security guards, Capt. Ambrosio Mendoza; and Emilio Cruz, former aide.

The vigil over the remains of the late President started at 3 p.m. with Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia, Undersecretary Raul S. Manglapus, Ambassador Felino Neri, former Secretary Joaquin M. Elizalde, Counselor Octavio L. Maloles, and counselors of the Department of Foreign Affairs, keeping watch.

The Malacañang Press Association, headed by its president, Francisco de Leon of the *Manila Chronicle*, stood vigil from 11 p.m. to 12 midnight. Also in attendance were Press Secretary J.V. Cruz; former Press Secretaries Vicente Albano Pacis, Baldomero T. Olivera, and Antonio L. Arizabal; and Assistant Press Secretary Guillermo V. Sison.

The National Press Club, headed by its president, Jose Aspiras, of the *Evening News*, took their turn from 12 midnight to 1 a.m. Saturday morning.

A continuous stream of people filed past the casket bearing the remains of the late President a few minutes after 3 p.m. People from all walks of life, government officials and employees, teachers and students, and friends, including

children, paid their respects. It was noted that even those from the lowly class came to give honor to the departed President.

March 3.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay flew to Albay and Sorsogon early this morning where he launched two bug irrigation projects which will cost the government P3,000,000.

Leaving Malacañang at 5:55 a.m., the President was able to take off from Nichols Air Base at 6:45 o'clock aboard the *Laong Laan*. He landed at the Legaspi airport at 8:15 a.m., after a rough and bumpy trip over the Albay hills.

With the presidential party were Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno, Brig. Gen. Alfredo M. Santos of the 2nd MA, Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, Sen. Pedro Sabido, Gov. Juan F. Triviño of Camarines Sur, and Reps. Pio Duran of Albay, Felix Fuentebella of Camarines Sur, and Salvador Encinas and Vicente L. Peralta of Sorsogon. Major Jose Estrella and Agerico Palaypal were the presidential aides who accompanied the President.

The President was welcomed by a big crowd at the airport, headed by Gov. Nicanor Maronilla-Serva of Albay. The presidential party ate their breakfast at Gov. Seva's residence.

After the breakfast, the President motored through Albay passing through Daraga, Camalig, and Guinobatan until he arrived in Ligao, where he set off the blast which marked the ground-breaking ceremonies launching the 1.7 million Mahaba-Nasisi irrigation project.

Speaking extemporaneously in Tagalog before a large crowd near the irrigation site at Ligao, President Magsaysay reiterated that one of the factors which could solve the economic problem of the country is increased production, particularly of rice. This, he said, could be attained by having among other things, adequate water supply.

The President recalled that to achieve this end, the sum of P100 million would be spent this year for the construction of 27 irrigation projects spread all over the country.

The President deplored the fact that last year several million pesos were spent in importing rice although the country could be self-sufficient in this commodity if there was enough irrigation. "This money," he said, "spent in importing rice should go to the farmers of our country in terms of improvements in the rural areas."

Sen. Pedro Sabido, who spoke before the President, said that the Bicolanos would never forget the President for his solitude for their welfare and that they would show their appreciation by supporting whole-heartedly the President and the Administration. Gov. Nicanor Maronilla-Seva introduced the President.

At 10 a.m., the President pressed the switch setting off a blast signifying the start of work on the irrigation project.

FROM Ligao the President motored to Sorsogon, Sorsogon, where he delivered a speech before a crowd that overflowed the grandstand.

The President praised Gov. Juan P. Frivaldo and all the officials of Sorsogon for their efforts in improving their province through increased production. In the course of his speech, the President approved a request of the people for the construction of a nurses' dormitory for the provincial hospital.

FROM Sorsogon the President and his party motored to Gubat, where he laid the cornerstone of the proposed causeway and wharf.

Speaking at the site of the wharf to the townspeople, the President said that he had already released the sum of P150,000 for the construction of the project. He bared plans for more improvements and said he would seek another P500,000 for the purpose.

The President was introduced by Rep. Salvador Encinas, who said that never has a Chief Executive shown solitude for the welfare of the people of Sorsogon as President Magsaysay has shown.

FROM Gubat the President motored back to Pili, Albay where he laid the cornerstone of the proposed irrigation system.

In another extemporaneous speech in Tagalog, the President said that with the completion of the irrigation project, the people of Albay would be able to harvest rice twice a year and thus improve their living conditions.

The Mahaba-Nasisi irrigation system will irrigate 3,500 hectares of land while the irrigation system at Pili will irrigate 1,800 hectares.

The President and his party returned to Manila at 6:30 p.m.

March 4.—BREAKFAST guest of the President at Malacañang this morning was Auxiliary Bishop Juan C. Sison of Nueva Segovia, who officiated at the *requiem* mass for the late President Quirino at the Palace this morning.

President Magsaysay led official mourners this morning in hearing the *requiem* mass, the last rites held in Malacañang for the late President.

President Magsaysay's family occupied the first pew to the right of the pews occupied by the immediate members of the late President's family.

President and Mrs. Magsaysay condoled anew with Vicky, daughter of the late President, and other members of the Quirino family immediately after the mass.

THE body of the late President was transferred from Malacañang to the session hall of the House of Representatives after the *requiem* mass at about 9 a.m.

Twelve members of the Presidential Guards Battalion took the flag-draped casket bearing the remains of the late President down the Palace. The hearse was escorted to the Legislature Building by a motorcycle escort of the Manila Police Department, the Constabulary Band, units of the Presidential Guards Battalion, the family of the late President, the members of the Committee on Funeral Arrangements, and friends of the late President.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today issued orders to enable the public to participate in the state funeral for the late President Quirino and to give honors to the departed Chief Executive.

The President directed Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., to suspend all classes in Manila, Pasay City, and Makati from 9:30 a.m. until the funeral for the late President is over. The order was transmitted today by Acting Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon.

Last evening, the President had authorized government offices and agencies in the City of Manila and the adjoining cities and municipalities to fulfill only essential functions on Monday morning, granting to dispensable employees the opportunity to attend the funeral services.

THIS evening, the President awarded the Philippine Legion of Honor (Officer) to William Randolph Hearst, Jr., one of the America's foremost newspaper publishers.

The award was given after an informal dinner which the President and Mrs. Magsaysay gave in honor of Mr. and Mrs. William Randolph Hearst, Jr., at the Malacañang banquet hall. Other special guests at the dinner were Mr. and Mrs. Eric Johnston.

The citation, which was read by Maj. Jose Estrella, presidential aide, said the honor was given to Mr. Hearst “for exceptionally meritorious and outstanding services to the Republic of the Philippines.”

March 5.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today led the nation in paying its last tribute to Ex-President Elpidio Quirino as he and the First Lady joined the long funeral procession ending at a simple tomb at the South Cemetery in Makati, Rizal, where the second President of the Republic was laid to rest past noon today.

In a brief eulogy delivered at the necrological services held in the session hall of the House of Representatives this morning, the President said that “Elpidio Quirino loved his countrymen and did his best to serve them well.”

The President continued: “For the things that he accomplished, let us remember him and be thankful to him.

“For those things that he wanted to do but could not finish, let us also remember him, but let us further resolve to seek their final accomplishment in his memory.”

He concluded: “Let us all, who now bid him farewell, pray to the God who now bids him welcome. to give us the strength and the wisdom with which to keep lasting and peaceful, the reality of freedom for which he lived and died.” (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 1249-1250, for the full text of the President’s oration.)

President Magsaysay left Malacañang for the Legislative Building shortly before 9 a.m., accompanied by Mrs., Magsaysay. Arriving at the session hall some ten minutes later, the President was escorted to the rostrum by Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., and Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr. The First Lady sat in the dais reserved for wives of congressional and other government officials.

The President’s eulogy lasted only four minutes. Speakers who preceded him were Sen. Pedro Sabido, who reviewed the late President’s political and economic achievements, and Rep. Diosdado Macapagal whose stirring oration brought tears to his hearers in the hushed atmosphere of the House session hall.

Afterward the President helped in carrying the casket out of the session hall to a waiting caisson near the Legislative Building. He joined the funeral cortege which stopped briefly at the Paules Church on San Marcelino, where Mons. Rufino J. Santos, archbishop of Manila, officiated at the last rites given the President.

At 11:05 a.m., after 20 minutes services at the Paules Church, the funeral cortege resumed its march. The funeral procession finally reached the South Cemetery about 12:30 p.m.

The President followed all the way. He stayed until the ceremonies at the cemetery came to a close. It was about 1 p.m. when the President and the First Lady returned to Malacañang.

THE President had a short nap after lunch. Later on, he went over pending state papers in his bedroom.

March 6.—AFTER five days’ respite from importunities of hundreds of callers, the President started receiving visitors today. He opened the day with a breakfast conference with Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno and finance officers of the government to take up the delay in the release of funds for various public works project.

The President had intended to call these officials to the Palace earlier but he bided his time in deference to the memory of the late President Quirino whose remains lay in state in the Palace ceremonial hall until Sunday morning.

Present at the conference were Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, Secretary Moreno, Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, Auditor General Manuel Agregado, Deputy Auditor General Pedro M. Gimenez, and Acting CB Governor Nicanor Tomas.

During the conference, the President devised an expeditious procedure whereby funds could be released with the least possible delay as was agreed upon by the conferees. He emphasized the importance of constructing irrigation

systems, barrio roads, and other public works projects, as well as the need for providing sufficient funds to the ACCFA with which to carry out its cooperative financing projects for the purpose of encouraging local industries, especially those making use of local raw materials.

During the conference, the President also called up Julio V. Macuja, assistant to the chairman of the RFC board of governors, and instructed him to expedite the processing of loan applications of cattle raisers. He called attention to the fact that the country was importing \$7 million worth of beef a year and that this could be eliminated with proper encouragement of the local cattle industry.

FOLLOWING the conference which lasted from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., the President received callers at his study until 1:30 p.m.

Jesus P. Mamisaw, president of the Soil Science Society, received a crisp P1 bill from the President as a “kick-off for the prize campaign for the first farmer to produce 100 cavanos of rice per hectare this year. Called the “Magsaysay Grand Prize Contest”, this will be the third year for the nation-wide rice production contest where deserving farmers had been awarded prizes in the form of tractors and other farm implements.

Cesar K. Rojas, a textile engineer of the Rojas-Kalaw Textile Mill of Polo, Bulacan, called to show plans showing the possibilities of ramie as a major industry which could be depended upon to cut down substantially the nation's enormous importation of textile. The plan called for the establishment of decorating, degumming, spinning, weaving, and fishing of ramie fiber with a capitalization of a few million pesos.

The President asked the textile engineer to confer with officials of the National Development Company. He said that of the plan would prove practicable, the government would extend all possible assistance to the venture.

Officers of the Home Industries Association called to pay their respects following their recent election to office. Headed by Hilarion Henares, association president, the officers, during their call, were sworn in by the President in a brief ceremony held at his Palace study.

A delegation from the Defenders of Bataan headed by its supreme councilor, Ramon Bagatsing, invited the President to their annual national convention to be held in Cebu City on May 5, the date of the fall of Corregidor. The delegation also informed the Chief Executive of the arrangements made for the observance of the Fall of Bataan on April 9 when another mass blood donation would be made by military personnel and civilians, Americans and Filipinos.

Executives of the Johnson and Johnson International called to pay their respects following their recent arrival in Manila. They were Antonio Rebollo, president, and Raymond Sadlier, vice-president. They were accompanied by Oscar Hernandez, manager of the local office of the company, and Carlos Romulo, Jr.

A large delegation from the War Widows and United Disabled Veterans Association headed by Leonardo G. Alfuentes, presented resolutions seeking, among other things, the installation of electric lights in Project 7, South Bago Bantay, Quezon City, where most of them are living.

Other callers were mostly provincial delegations who sought financial aids for their respective localities.

Such delegations were those from Aliaga and Talugtog, Nueva Ecija, headed by Mayors Zacarias Viernes and Mariano Zapla; from Janiway, San Miguel, New Lucena, Zarraga, and Calinog, Iloilo, headed by mayors Benito Tabiana, Pedro Margarico, Ramon Salmon, Potenciano Imperial, and Porfirio Pinuela; another group of Iloilo mayors accompanied by Rep. Jose Aldegue from Marinduque, accompanied by Rep. Panfilo Manguera; from Samal, Bataan, accompanied by rep. Jose Nuguid; from Lopez Quezon, accompanied by Leon Guinto, Jr.; from Sapián, Capiz, accompanied by Rep. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing; from Cagayan, accompanied by Gov. Marcelino Adduru and Rep. Felipe Garduque; and Cotabato mayors accompanied by Sen. Domocao Alonto.

Among individual callers were Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez, Rep. Lamberto Macias of Negros Oriental, Mayor Sergio Osmeña, Jr., of Cebu City, and Gov. Esmeraldo Eco of Camarines Norte.

IN the afternoon, the President addressed extemporaneously the delegates to the first conference of Contractors Associations in Asia and the Western Pacific, held in conjunction with the tenth annual convention of the Philippine Contractors Association, before cocktails given in their honor at Malacañang.

President Magsaysay in his speech said that he was pushing vigorously the government's economic program by constructing specific projects that the cooperation of private contractors was needed in the successful prosecution of this vast undertaking.

Some 150 delegates coming from China, Japan, Vietnam, Australia, Pakistan, Korea, Indonesia, and the Philippines came to Malacañang. The delegates were headed by Eduardo R. Escobar, convention chairman; H.R. Lopez, newly elected president; Domingo Poblete, outgoing president; Miss Nena Perfercto, secretary; and Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno and Undersecretary Rafael Contreras.

Escobar introduced to the President the delegates to the conference, especially those coming from foreign countries, and thanked the President for the hospitality accorded the delegates. He said that the conference would seek to solve mutual problems among contractors and promote amity and friendship among the neighboring countries of Asia. He remarked that the contractors have provided employment to some 200,000 laborers.

Poblete said that President Magsaysay would be remembered as the "Builder President" for the many construction works being carried out in the country today. He brought to the attention of the President the necessity of exempting construction machinery from the 17 per cent special import tax.

In his extemporaneous remarks, the President said that in view of the nation-wide construction works, such as irrigation systems, roads, bridges, and public buildings being undertaken by the Administration, there was need for more contractors. He said that just now there were not enough contractors who could absorb all the construction work being launched by the government, owing to lack of equipment.

Although there were enough men who had the technical know-how, the President pointed out, equipment was lacking. He said it might be possible to make arrangements for the lease of construction equipment from contractors of neighboring countries.

The President explained that he had asked for P100 million from Congress for irrigation projects alone and that of this amount, P60 million was already earmarked for the construction of 18 irrigation projects being started in various parts of the country. He added that aside from the large irrigation systems, P20 million would be released for the construction of smaller irrigation projects. In all these construction work, the President said, the government would need the cooperation of private contractors.

With regard to the difficulties of contractors arising from special import tax on construction machinery, the President said that if plans went through, the tariff law would be revised so as to exempt contractors from the payment of taxes. He said that he would also help the contractors by getting cement from abroad to be sold at reasonable price.

President Magsaysay promised the contractors that he would help them solve their problems and that they should not hesitate to consult him or Secretary Moreno. He said that as he was their friend, he would help them fight their battles."

During the cocktails, W.S. Cheung, chairman of the Republic of Korea delegation to the contractors conference, presented to the President a vase from the General Contractors Association of Korea. The vase is made of brass with lacquer and is inlaid with mother-of-pearl. The President thanked the delegation for their beautiful gift.

THE President also received in the afternoon David Adams, president of the Orient Productions, Inc., who came to the Philippines to make final arrangements for a series of six performances in Manila in May of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. Adams was accompanied to Malacañang by Alfredo Lozano, impresario, and Vicente F. Barranco of the *Manila Times*.

IN the evening, the President received Roy Howard, president of the Scripps-Howard chain of newspapers. Howard is staying in Malacañang as the President's house guest. He takes over the room vacated by William Randolph Hearst, Jr., of the Hearst chain of newspapers, another house guest of the President.

March 7.—DISCARDING protocol and tradition, the President motored this morning to Speaker Jose B. Laurel's residence in Mandaluyong, Rizal, where he attended a breakfast conference with Congress leaders.

It was the first time the President went out go Malacañang to discuss official matters and seek legislative cooperation from Congress leaders in the residence of a solon.

Present at the breakfast conference were Sens. Cipriano Primicias and Jose P. Laurel, and Reps. Daniel Z. Romualdez and Arturo M. Tolentino. Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez did not attend the meeting.

UPON his return from the conference, the President received the family of the late President Elpidio Quirino who called to thank him for the help extended to them during the funeral of their dearly beloved. Those who called were Mrs. Bicky Quirino-Gonzalez, Tommy Quirino, ex-Gov. Eliseo Quirino, and Judge Antonio Quirino.

Other callers included Mons. Egidio Vagnozzi, papal nuncio to the Philippines, who returned from abroad recently, Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez, and Ambassador Narciso Ramos, who paid his respects prior to his departure for his new post in Taipei, China.

AFTER receiving a few callers, the President presided over the regular weekly meeting of the Cabinet.

The Cabinet approved in principle during its meeting today the barter of "D" sugar with rice from Portugal. Approval was spurred by Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Raul S. Manglapus, who exported on current negotiations to trade "D" sugar with Portuguese rice.

A Portuguese firm had sent samples of the rice it will barter with "D" sugar and the samples are now being tested at the Institute of Science and Technology. Final implementation of the Cabinet decision to bring in Portuguese rice will be made after the report on the tests has been submitted by the IST.

Final approval of the proposal to trade "D" sugar with Portuguese rice will rule out definitely plans to bring in rice from Burma or Iran. The barter will be made on a ton-to-ton basis.

The President and the Cabinet approved in principle the barter pending the final result of the tests which is expected to be submitted tomorrow.

The President during the meeting reminded the members of the Cabinet to give preferential attention to presidential directives and memorandums sent to them from time to time.

The Chief Executive said that he would like to see his directives implemented immediately, doing away with red tape in the execution of the work to be done in those directives.

The Cabinet members told the President that they were doing their best to act immediately on urgent matters sent to them for acting by the President. They said they would follow through the implementation of such orders and see to it that the bottleneck preventing their full and immediate implementation is broken.

Defense Eulogio Balao recommended to the President the subdivision of the 487-hectare land owned by the Armed Forces in Cauayan, Isabela, to be distributed to the tenants working on the land. He also recommended that the Army stop collecting its 30 per cent share from the products of the land as agreed upon in the contract with the tenants.

The President approved the subdivision of the area, the size of each farm lot to be determined later.

Other matters taken up by the Cabinet were routine in nature. The meeting was presided over by the President. It began at past 11 a.m. and lasted up to past 12 noon.

IN the afternoon, the President said that in preparing the people against the new campaigns of atheistic communism, “we must have the support of private institutions which by their teaching of faith in God and in the ways of freedom, fortify the minds and the spirits of Filipinos in the face of the Godless aggressor.”

The President made these remarks before a big gathering of students at the University of Santo Tomas campus after reviewing an evening parade given in his honor by the UST cadet corps. The occasion was the ROTC field day in connection with the university’s celebration of its 350th anniversary, at which the Chief Executive was the guest of honor.

The President arrived at the UST campus at past 4 p.m. and was met by university officials headed by Rev. Fr. Jesus Castañon, O.P., rector. Also on hand to greet the President were Mons. Juan Bautista Velasco of Amoy, China, auxiliary bishop of Manila for the Chinese; and Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr.

The President walked directly to the reviewing stand to review the evening parade which started at 4:20 p.m.

Among the sponsors present was Cadet Major Milagros Magsaysay, the President’s daughter, who was a color sponsor. She was seated at the head of the group of cadet sponsors.

Fr. Rector Castañon introduced the President, who delivered his speech at 5:08 p.m.

The President congratulated the Fathers, the lay faculty, and the student body of the University of Santo Tomas on their Foundation Day. He said that in dedicating the day to the memory of St. Thomas Aquinas, they were reconsecrating themselves and the university “to the principles of true Christian freedom.”

President Magsaysay recalled that in the dawn of Philippine freedom, men who had led in the fight for that freedom should come from the university named after the man “who so early in Christian history spoke so boldly about the freedom of man.” He said that from Del Pilar to Quezon and Osmeña, men had emerged from the halls of the University of Santo Tomas.

The President noted that in this century, “a new threat has arisen, the most terrifying in history, for it openly seeks to destroy God, who is the source of all liberty. We have already felt the strength of this new attack in all its aspects—the armed rebellion, the quiet, insidious subversion, the hypocritical offer of the friendly hand.”

After his speech, the President was accompanied by university officials to the seminary building where *merienda* was served. From the UST campus the President motored back to Malacañang.

March 8.—THE Chief Executive started the day with breakfast with provincial and municipal officials of Negros Occidental who appraised him of various problems of their respective localities. Accompanied by Rep. Agustin Gatuslao, the Negros group included Gov. Valeriano Gatuslao, Board Members Armando Gustilo and Ramon Lacson, and Mayors S. Carmona of San Carlos, H. Villasin of Cadiz, J. Moises of Isabela, C. Aguilar of Hinigaran, J. Alvarez of Palay, D. Infante of Valladolid, and V. Suanico of Pontevedra.

President Magsaysay today issued proclamation declaring the period from March 12 to 18 this year as technology week and creating a committee to take charge of its observance.

The President, in his proclamation No. 270, pointed out that the industrialization and economic development programs of the government depend largely on technological knowledge and skill and that technological knowledge in the Philippines can be effectively advanced through effective media and instrumentalities for the dissemination of the new discoveries, techniques, and procedures.

The committee is composed of the chairman of the National Economic Council as chairman, the president of the Philippine Council of Science and Technology as vice-chairman, and the following members: the secretary of public works and communications, the secretary of agriculture and natural resources, the secretary of education, the secretary of health, the president of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities, and the director of the Institute of Science and Technology.

The President followed another heavy schedule of callers this morning. He received visitors continuously for about six hours, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

After breakfast, the President proceeded to his study where numerous callers awaited their turn to see him.

Supervisors of the Bureau of Public Schools and provincial and city librarians who had come from all over the country for their third national convention presented a resolution reiterating their pledge of support to the President's program of rural development. They were accompanied by Jesus S. Japson; chairman of the conference and Ciriaco Villanueva, special technical assistant in the Department of Education.

A delegation from the Bus Operators Association of the Philippines (BOAP) presented the President with a resolution naming him honorary president of the organization. Bienvenido P. Buan, association president, explained that the resolution had been unanimously passed at their recent meeting "in cognizance of the fact that the President started his career as a transportation man and achieved remarkable success, particularly in saving the transportation company which he managed from imminent bankruptcy, making it stable and financially sound until the outbreak of the war in 1941."

During their call, newly-elected BOAP officers were inducted by the President. Those inducted were Bienvenido P. Buan, president; Antonio W. Heras, vice-president; J. Benedicto, treasurer; Eugenio Trinidad, secretary; Justo de Dios, J.L. Klar, Victor de los Santos, Jose M. Silva, and Jose M. Villarama, directors.

New officers of the Farmers Club of the Philippines were also inducted by the President. They were Vicente D. Gabriel, national chairman; Simeon T. Dagdag, national secretary-treasurer; Perfecto Faypon and Perfecto Balili, vice national chairman; Pacifico S. Sison, regional coordinator; Emiliano M. Ortiz, board member; and Teodorico B. Santos, provincial coordinator for Camarines Sur.

Representatives from the 1956 Engineering Conference to be held at the U.P. campus in Diliman, Quezon City, from March 19 to 21, this year, called to invite the President to address the delegates. Dean Crisostomo A. Ortigas said that industrialists of corporations and engineering societies would be represented at the conference.

Most of the delegations received by the President this morning came from the provinces. Accompanied by provincial and municipal officials, they called to request aid for their respective localities in the construction of various projects; such as, hospitals, barrio roads, waterworks, irrigation systems, and school buildings.

Such delegations were those from Limay and Hermosa, Bataan, accompanied by Rep. Jose Nuguid and Gov. Emilio Naval; from Samar, accompanied by Sen. Decoroso Rosales; from Arayat and Guagua, Pampanga, headed by Mayors Julito Espino and Isidro Ocampo; from Dingle, Iloilo, headed by Rep. Ricardo Ladrado; from Nueva Vizcaya, accompanied by Rep. Leonardo Perez; from Oroquieta, Misamis Occidental, headed by Rep. William Chiongbian and Mayor Malcolm Enerio; from Dansalan, Davao, accompanied by Rep. Ismael Veloso and Mayor

Ramon de los Cientos; from Agusan, accompanied by Rep. Conrado Sanchez; from Bukidnon headed by Rep. Cesar Fortich; from Leyte, accompanied by Rep. Carlos Tan and Gov. Bernardo Torres; and from Rosario, Batangas, headed by Councilor Eugenio Tagle.

In the evening the President awarded the Philippine Legion of Honor (Officer) to Juan T. Trippe, president of the Pan-American World Airways, for “exceptionally meritorious and outstanding services rendered to the Republic of the Philippines.”

The award was given at the cocktails which President and Mrs. Magsaysay gave in honor of Mr. J.T. Trippe and the members of the Board of Directors of Pan American World War Airways, Inc. Mrs. Trippe was present when the President pinned the medal on Mr. Trippe.

The citation was read by Major Jose Estrella, presidential aide. Before pinning the medal, President Magsaysay said that he was happy to decorate Mr. Trippe, who “has done so much for the progress of aviation.”

In response, Mr. Trippe said that he was very grateful for the award because it meant that the PAA was at the same time honored. He added that his company would continue serving the Philippines and the world.

President Magsaysay tonight said that he had requested Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno to make arrangements for floatation in the United States of Philippine Government dollar bonds when needed.

The President added that Cuaderno had obtained a \$20 million credit line for the Central Bank without collateral from a large private bank in New York. Cuaderno is now helping draw up loan agreements with the Export-Import Bank, the President said.

Early next week, Cuaderno will proceed to Oregon to see Hanna Company Nickel Plant and then will return to Manila via San Francisco.

The President in a cable to Cuaderno this evening congratulated him for his work in bring secure the loan from the United States.

March 9.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay spent the whole day today on board the USS *Shangri-La*, carrier flagship of the hard-hitting Task Force 77, which is a veritable floating fortress with 3,500 officers and men.

The *Shangri-La*, a 41,343-ton aircraft carrier, was the carrier which launched USAF Gen. James Doolittle’s surprise attack against Japan in 1942.

President Magsaysay left Malacañang at 7:30 a.m. and boarded a U.S. naval boat to the *Shangri-La*, which was anchored inside the Manila harbor. He was accompanied from the U.S. embassy landing by USN Rear Admiral Wendell G. Switzer, commander of the U.S. naval forces in the Philippines.

The President boarded the *Shangri-La*, 15 minutes late but was met with 21-gun salute from the vast aircraft carrier. He was welcomed on board the carrier by USN Vice-Admiral Stuart H. Ingersoll, commander of the U.S. 7th Fleet; USN Rear Admiral A.P. Storrs, commander of the U.S. Task Force 77; and USN Capt. C.W. Lord, commander of the USS *Shangri-La*.

The President witnessed the launching of the carrier planes, jets, and propeller planes, and their simulated attack against the make-believe targets.

At noontime, the President had lunch on the *Shangri-La* which had steamed some 20 miles off the western coast of Luzon.

Shortly after lunch, the President was treated to the “war games” wherein about 120 jets and propeller planes took part in strafing and bombing with live ammunition two targets which were pulled by the carriers *USS Bennington* and *USS Kearsarge*.

President Magsaysay, together with high government officials, newspapermen, radiomen, moviemen, were guests aboard the *Shangri-La* the whole day where they observed operations of a carrier task force of the U.S. Seventh Fleet off the coast of Luzon. He returned to Manila at 5:30 p.m.

After the “battle operations”, the President issued the following statement:

“I was greatly impressed by the striking power, skill, and efficiency demonstrated by a carrier task force of the U.S. 7th fleet during its ‘battle operations’ staged today on the China Sea off the coast of Luzon. Such a show of massive strength inspires in everyone, confidence in the ability of the United States to defend democracy—which all liberty-loving peoples cherish—anywhere, anytime.

“I wish to express my sincere thanks to Vice-Admiral Ingersoll, Rear Admiral Storrs and Switzer, Captain Lord, and the officers and men of the *Shangri-La*, *Kearsarge*, *Bennington*, *Helena*, *Knapp*, *Tingey*, *Yarmall*, *Parks*, *Craig*, *McDermut*, and *Perkins*, which staged the naval operations, for their hospitality and for the thrilling spectacle they presented. It was indeed a most inspiring and memorable experience.”

Vice-Admiral Stuart Howe Ingersoll, commander of the U.S. Seventh Fleet and Taiwan (China) Defense Command, issued the following statement:

“The personnel of the United States Seventh Fleet, who have participated in today’s task force operations of Luzon, are most proud to have been host to President Magsaysay and his party. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have the President embarked on the *Shangri-La*, and we hope that he and his party have enjoyed the operations as much as we have enjoyed having them with us.”

March 10.—AFTER a hectic day at sea yesterday, the President stayed in his bedroom almost the whole day this day and went over state papers which had accumulated.

However, he received Cebu City Mayor Sergio Osmeña, Jr., at a breakfast conference this morning. During the conference, the President said he favors the granting of more autonomy to local governments. He told Osmeña he will take up the proposal with Congress leaders at a breakfast conference sometime next week.

IN the afternoon, the President motored out of Malacañang with Maj. Pat Garcia, his aide, for Fort Wm. McKinley, where he went horseback riding. He returned early in the evening.

President Magsaysay today signed three administrative orders:

(1) Administrative Order No. 185, removing Fernando Pacana from office as register of deeds of Misamis Oriental and Cagayan de Oro City;

(2) Administrative Order No. 184, requiring Justice of the Peace Pablo Urrea of Rizal, Laguna, to resign; and

(3) Administrative Order No. 186, suspending Severing Bagtasos from office as register of deeds of Sulu.

An administrative case was filed against Pacana, register of deeds of Misamis Oriental and Cagayan de Oro City for alleged exertion, negligence, dishonesty, falsification, etc.

The charge of exertion had not been satisfactorily established because of the retraction of some of the complainants and the unavailability of another. However, the testimony of one of the complainants tended to prove that respondent had ignored the inhibition contained in Administrative Order No. 239, dated December 23, 1953, under

which he had been reprimanded and warned from going beyond the scope of his official duties by intervening in the preparation and processing of a title, by again “officiously intervening in the procurement of plans and technical descriptions, which matters were alien to his duties as register of deeds.”

The commissioner of the Land Registration Commission believed that although the irregularities committed by the respondent warranted his separation from the service, the penalty to be meted out to him should be mitigated in view of his long and previous faithful service and the fact that he had been suffering from diabetes which could have contributed to the commission of said irregularities. The commissioner recommended the respondent to be allowed to resign.

However, the President fully agreed with the secretary of justice, who felt that said recommendation leaned unduly to the side of leniency and that “the many irregularities committed by the respondent are so grave that it would not serve public interest to treat him leniently.” The secretary of justice believed “that it is only by drastic action that the government can curb the evil practices rampant in many government offices.”

In view of the foregoing and on recommendation of the secretary of justice, Pacana was removed from office as register of deeds of Misamis Oriental and Cagayan de Oro City, effective as of the date of his preventive suspension.

An administrative case was filed by a woman against Justice of the Peace Pablo Urrea of Rizal, Laguna, for immorality.

It was alleged that: (a) Urrea after having lived with complainant for 18 years without benefit of marriage, left her for another woman; and (b) after leaving complainant, respondent entered into a fictitious marriage with another woman of Sariaya, Quezon.

The district judge who investigated the case found that respondent had lived with the complainant without benefit of marriage and was guilty of immorality.

In his administrative order, the President said he fully agreed with the district judge and the secretary of justice that “respondent had publicly maintained illicit relations with complainant and was therefore guilty of immorality.” He lived both with complainant before and after his appointment as justice of the peace, although he could have married her. But, the administrative order said, “he did not marry her because he considered it beneath the dignity of his office to be married to her.”

Urrea was required to resign from his position as justice of the peace of Rizal, Laguna, within 10 days from receipt of the administrative order. Failing to do so within the given period, he would be deemed removed from his position effective the day following the expiration of the period.

An administrative case was filed against Severino Bagtasos, register of deeds of Sulu, for allegedly extorting money from some ignorant Moros.

From the investigation it appeared that sometime in 1953, a group of Moros came to respondent’s office to inquire about their free-patent applications. The respondent advised them to hire the services of a lawyer in Manila to work for the early issuance of their patents. Subsequently, a telegram was received by respondent from the lawyer asking him how much each applicant would pay for the service. Thereupon, the respondent sent his son to Tongkil, Sulu, to inquire from the applicants how much each of them would pay for the services of the lawyer in expediting the issuance of their patents.

The administrative order said that although there was no evidence to sustain the charge of extortion the acts of the respondent in the premises were such as “to cast a shadow of suspicion on his motives, considering that the transaction involved pecuniary consideration.” For lack of sufficient evidence, the respondent was entitled to the benefit of the doubt, and was therefore absolved from the charge.

Bagtasos was suspended from office as register of deeds of Sulu for 15 days without pay.

March 11.—PRESIDENT and Mrs. Magsaysay, about 7 o'clock this morning motored to the Independence Memorial Grandstand, where they heard mass offered in commemoration of Pope Pius XII's 80th birthday anniversary and the 17th anniversary of his coronation.

Papal Nuncio Egidio Vagnozzi headed the archbishops and bishops who officiated simultaneously in saying 31 masses.

After the celebration in the Luneta, the President and his Lady motored to the V. Luna General Hospital, where they looked into the condition of Santiago Cataruja, 42, a motorcycle policeman who, earlier in the morning had figured in a vehicular accident at the intersection of Ayala Boulevard and San Marcelino Street.

Cataruja was bumped by a passenger bus while he was escorting the President and the First Lady to the Luneta. He suffered a fractured leg.

After visiting Cataruja, President and Mrs. Magsaysay took occasion to inquire into the conditions of several patients at the hospital who were mostly soldiers. The First Couple motored back to Malacañang, arriving at about 9:30 a.m. They were accompanied by a presidential aide, Maj. Pat Garcia.

THE President this morning said that he fully endorsed the objectives of the Asian People's Anti Communist League. He emphasized that communism could never thrive among peoples who had confidence in their government. This confidence, he added, could be attained if the duly constituted authorities extended justice to all citizens.

The President made these extemporaneous remarks at the Malacañang ceremonial hall before APACL delegates who are now holding their second annual conference in Manila and who come to pay their respects to the President. They were led by Chancellor Jose M. Hernandez of San Sebastian College, president of the Catholic Action of the Philippines and chairman of the APACL conference.

The President stressed the importance of the policy of attraction in the fight against communism. He recalled that when he was secretary of national defense, top members of the politburo were brought to justice because aside from the strong-armed campaign against the diehard Huks, the Government also launched its policy of attraction,

He said that with the crushing of the armed uprising, the communists had now changed their tactics by attempting to cripple the economic development of the country. He pointed out that this move was being countered by the Administration by improving the living conditions of the people in the rural areas.

The President said that among other improvements, roads were built in many of the rural areas, enabling farmers to transport and sell their products more easily.

The delegation which called at Malacañang at 10 a.m. was composed of representatives from seven Asian countries; namely Free China, Hong Kong, Macao, Ryukyus, Vietnam, and the Philippines. Some of them presented gifts to the President. Their call on the President lasted until 11 a.m.

IN the afternoon, the President drew a three-point plan to accelerate the country's economic development through:

- (1) Diversification of production in order to be less dependent on world demand and less vulnerable to world price fluctuations for a limited number of export commodities;
- (2) Attainment of a greater degree of economic self-sufficiency by promoting domestic industries using local raw materials; and

(3) Great expansion of the markets for exports abroad.

(See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 1249-1250, for the full text of the President's oration.)

The President gave this three-point remedy during the launching of the First National Foreign Trade Convention and the observance of Philippine Trade Week under the auspices of the different chambers of commerce and trade associations of the Philippines, at the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines building on Magallanes Drive.

The President was fetched from Malacañang by Cesar M. Lorenzo, chairman of the coordination committee of the convention. Others who accompanied the President were Asst. Press Secretary Guillermo V. Sison and a presidential aide, Maj. Pat Garcia.

Arriving at the CCP building about 4:30 p.m., the President was met by officers of the different chambers of commerce and trade associations, headed by Bienvenido R. Medrano, chairman of the executive committee of the convention; and Hermegildo R. Reyes and Gil Carlos, directors of the CCP.

Mr. Lorenzo, who presided over the inauguration program, introduced the President. The President's speech lasted from 4:45 p.m. to 5 p.m.

After the program, the President and the delegates of the different chambers of commerce were served locally manufactured coffee which was found satisfactory. The President said he would like to serve it in Malacañang.

The President was then led to the conference room of the CCP building where a *merienda* was served. After a few minutes he motored back to Malacañang.

March 12.—GETTING up early despite a strong temptation to stay in bed, President Magsaysay motored to the Nichols Air Base about 6:30 o'clock this morning, where he took off on the *Laong Laan* at 6:45 for Aparri, Cagayan.

The President flew under inclement weather to the northernmost town of Luzon where he launched the P13.5 million irrigation project in barrio Lukban, Abulog. He was accompanied by Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao; George Peabody of the Philippine Association; Virgil Pinkley, an American Publisher; Robert C. Ruark, a noted American author; and Maj. Jose Estrella, an aide. Rep. Paulino Alonzo of Cagayan and Public Works Undersecretary Rafael Contreras joined the presidential party at the Nichols Air Base.

The Presidential plane *Laong Laan* landed at the Aparri airport about 8:30 a.m. The President and his party were welcomed by government officials of Cagayan, headed by Gov. Marcelo Adduru. Aparri, a backward town of Nipa houses and a handful of motor vehicles, turned out en masse to welcome the Chief Executive.

From the airport the President motored to the municipal building, where he was served breakfast by the Cagayan Women's Club.

As the crowd gathered in front of the municipal building, the President went to the veranda and delivered an extemporaneous speech in Ilocano. He was wildly cheered.

From the municipal building the President led a motorcade through 40 kilometers of muddily roads to barrio Lukban, where he broke the ground for the P13.5 million irrigation project, the second biggest irrigation project in the country.

Before pushing the switch that started the blast, the President said that Cagayan would become one of the rice suppliers of the country as a result of the irrigation system. He told the big crowd, composed mostly of farmers who stood attentively in spite of a heavy rain, that the economic improvement of their province would be complete with the extension of the Manila Railroad line to Cagayan.

On the way to Abulug, the President almost figured in a near accident when one of the gangplanks of the Camalanjungan ferry boat which took the President and his party across the Cagayan River, suddenly slipped and splashed into the river. The President, Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, Cagayan officials, Army officers, and newsmen who were standing on the gangplank almost went down with it if it were not for the shouting of the ferry boat workers. Col. Jonas Victoria, deputy chief of the Air Force, suffered a slight cut on the forehead when he was struck by the bumper of a Bureau of Public Highways truck while avoiding the lowering gangplank.

Cagayan Gov. Marcelo Adduru, one of the speakers at the groundbreaking ceremony, fully endorsed the re-election of the President in 1957 and the crowd cheered loudly in approval. Gov. Adduru said "no other President has served the poor more than President Magsaysay."

In his extemporaneous speech delivered in Ilocano, the President said that he wanted the early completion of irrigation projects all over the country so that "you, the farmers, can not only eat three square meals a day but also send your children to study in the colleges in Manila."

He said that with all the irrigation system projects in the country, the Philippines would soon stop importing rice amounting to P12 million every year. "I want to help our farmers because I know their difficulties and sufferings," he said.

After his long extemporaneous speech, the President and members of his party were served luncheon at the barrio school house. They used banana stalks for plates and their fingers in lieu of forks and spoons.

From the barrio school house, the President and his party mooted to Ballesteros to visit Rep. Alonzo, but the congressman was not at home. So they returned to the Aparri airport and took off for the return trip to Manila at 3:15 p.m. They landed at the Nichols Air Base at 4:10 p.m.

IN the evening, President and Mrs. Magsaysay gave a formal dinner in honor of U.S. Ambassador and Mrs. Homer Ferguson at Malacañang. Congress leaders, members of the foreign and local diplomatic corps, and members of the Cabinet and the judiciary were invited to the affair.

The Ferguson are leaving soon for the United States where Ambassador Ferguson will assume his new position as associate justice of the United States Military Court of Appeals.

March 13.—AT breakfast conference this morning, the President shelved a proposal of the Philippine Air Lines to resume international operations in favor of making more improvements in the domestic service.

The President indicated at the conference that he would prefer that the PAL, in which the Government holds the controlling interest, improve its domestic operation first before returning to the international field. He said the improvement of the domestic air service should be aimed at accelerating the development of rural areas. He added that the question of international operation could be taken up later.

The President at the breakfast conference discussed with members of the House committee on transportation and communication, financial officials, and PAL executives ways and means of improving and developing the country's domestic airlines to accelerate the development of the rural areas.

The President approved the release of earmarked funds for local airports and directed Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno to start immediately work on these airports.

The Chief Executive also told Secretary Moreno to clear with the National Economic Council the sale of bonds to implement long-range projects which will further the growth of local air transportation.

Rep. Bartolome Cabangbang, chairman of the House committee on transportation and communication, urged the development of trunkline airports like those in Manila, Cebu, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, and Davao. He also urged the improvement of the regular airports and the construction of feeder airports.

The President favored the purchase of faster planes like the British-built Vickers Viscount in order to shorten flying time between points within the Philippines. It is also planned to buy Otter planes to service the feeder airports and enable people in small towns to use faster transportation.

Others who attended the conference were Speaker Protempore Daniel Z. Romualdez; Reps. Carlos Hilado of Negros Occidental, Jacobo Gonzales of Laguna, Esteban Bernido of Bohol, Angel Castaño of Manila, and Vicente Peralta of Sorsogon; Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno, Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Raul S. Manglapus, PNB President Arsenio J. Jison, Acting Central Bank Governor Nicanor Tomas, Sixto de la Costa of the RFC, Col. Andres Soriano of PAL; and PAL officials, Daniel Gomez and Rafael Ygoa. Also present was Ben Gaston.

The conference lasted from 8 to 9:30 a.m.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning approved the sending of two technical men of the National Development Company abroad to look into ramie textile mills and pilot plants in Europe and the United States.

The ramie experts will be authorized to choose and negotiate the purchase of the best equipment for the establishment of a proposed P10-million ramie textile mill as requested by the Davao Fibers Producers Cooperative.

Representation for the sending of the two technical men was made by Jose H. Panganiban, general manager of the National Development Company. He said that the NDC was implementing the President's instructions to rush the establishment of the proposed P10-million ramie textile mill or at least the degumming and spinning plants of the mill.

The NDC technical men will visit the ramie pilot plant in Graniteville, Massachusetts, which has reportedly perfected a new process to staple and degum ramie that can be blended with cotton, wool, synthetic, and other fibers.

The President received a delegation of the Philippine Medical Association headed by its president, Dr. Heraldo del Castillo, and Health Secretary Paulino J. Garcia. The association invited the President to be its guest of honor at the opening of the first Philippine Medical Association's annual convention in conjunction with the Asian Confederation of Medical Associations and the first Congress of Cardiology of Asia and Oceania, on April 18.

In the course of the call of the PMA, Secretary Garcia presented to the President the plans for the malaria research laboratory and training center to be constructed in the San Lazaro Hospital compound. The research laboratory will also undertake studies of other insect-borne diseases. The President approved the plan for the clinic.

Secretary Garcia also presented to the President Dr. Walfrido de Leon, head of laboratories and research of the Department of Health, who with the assistance of Dr. Rogelio Relova, has discovered a new cure for hydrophobia. Garcia said that if the treatment discovered by Dr. De Leon would be sustained and confirmed by later cases, this treatment would be the Philippines' greatest contribution to the medical science. The President congratulated Doctors De Leon and Relova for their medical research.

The President told Assistant Executive Secretary Enrique C. Quema to order the PC commander in Pampanga to investigate charges that wives of negritos in Porac, Pampanga, were allegedly raped by a government agent.

The President gave this order upon petition by a group of negritos headed by King Alfonso, belonging to the tribe in Porac, Pampanga. They were accompanied to Malacañang by Atty. Eulogio Flores.

Eligio Tavanlar, formerly NARRA general manager and now land settlement expert of the World Veterans Federation, presented the President with a silver teaspoon set given by Prime Minister Kotelawala of Ceylon and a pound of choicest Ceylon tea from R.W. Porter, superintendent of the Anglo-Ceylon and General Estates Company, Ltd. Tavanlar is in the Philippines for a visit.

The members of the Escolta Walking Corporation called on the President to invite him to attend their annual dinner. The delegation was headed by Primitivo Lovina, president of the EWC, and former Sen. Tomas Cabili, vice-president. The President said that he would first invite the EWC members to Malacañang.

The President received Paul R. Parrette, general manager of the Philippine Manufacturing Company, who presented to the Chief Executive his successor, K.W. Streith. Parrette is leaving for a European assignment.

The Chief Executive also received Lt. Col. John M. Prentice, well-known Australian commentator on international affairs, who paid his respects to the President. He was accompanied to Malacañang by Dean Jorge Bocobo.

The President received many callers this morning in his study room beginning at about 9:30 a.m., after the breakfast conference, up to 12:40 p.m.

The President received several delegations from the provinces headed by senators, representatives, and governors. These delegations requested from the President improvements in their localities; such as, construction of feeder roads, artesian wells, and pre-fabricated school houses. Others asked for the expropriation of haciendas.

Among the delegations received by the president were those headed by Sen. Jose C. Zulueta; by Reps. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz, Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo, and Esteban Bernido of Bohol; by Rep. Apolinario R. Apacible of Batangas; by Govs. Mariano Tajonera of Mindoro Occidental and Dominador Chipeco of Laguna; by Gov. Alejo Santos and Rep. Rogaciano Mercado of Bulacan; by Rep. Wenceslao R. Lagumbay of Laguna; by Mayor Nicetas Viesca of San Antonio, Nueva Ecija; and by Mayor Bonifacio Masinongan of San Jose, Batangas.

Individual callers included Sens. Fernando Lopez, Pedro Sabido, Mariano Jesus Cuenco, Francisco Rodrigo, and Francisco Ortega and Manuel T. Cases of La Union, Mateo Pecson of Masbate, and Cesar Fortich of Bukidnon; Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez; and Ex- Representative Artemio Macalino.

March 14.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning had a breakfast conference with Congress leaders during which they discussed various administration measures under consideration in the current regular session of Congress.

Among the measures taken up was a bill granting special tariff powers to the President, authorizing him to lower or increase tariff rates under certain conditions and limitations. The conferees agreed to the immediate need of pushing through the measure as a means of removing obstructions to the expeditious implementation of the government's construction program.

It was pointed out at the conference that private contractors had been hesitant to undertake construction jobs for the government in view of the prohibitive cost of imported materials as a result of increased duties. With the granting of special powers to the President, contractors would be more or less assured of procuring their materials at reasonable prices, particularly those for irrigation and road-building projects of the government.

Present at the conference held at Malacañang from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. were Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., Speaker Protempore Daniel Z. Romualdez, Senate Majority Floor Leader Cipriano Primicias, House Majority Floor Leader Arturo M. Tolentino, Sen. Gil J. Puyat, chairman of the Senate finance committee, and Rep. Godofredo Ramos of Capiz, chairman of the House of ways and means committee. Also present were Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno and Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona.

Following the conference, the President proceeded to his study, where he received a delegation of newspaper editors who called to pay their respects prior to their departure for Tokyo to attend the International Press Institute where 26

countries in the Pacific Area would be represented. Headed by Manuel Villareal of the *Daily Mirror*, chairman of the delegation, the group was composed of Hernando Abaya of the *Bulletin*, Pedro Amaguin of the *Chronicle*, Carlos Nivera of the *Herald*, Baldomero T. Olivera of *PNS*, Jose Chong of the *Fookien Times*, and Quentin Yu-yi-tong of the *Chinese Commercial News*. Also with the group was Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Raul S. Manglapus, who will address the editors' conference on behalf of the President.

Rep. William Chiongbian of Misamis Occidental also called to invite the President to address a public school teachers convention to be held in Ozamiz City on March 17. He was accompanied by Mayor Malcolm Enerio of Oroquieta, who requested financial assistance for some pressing projects in his municipality.

Other callers included U.S. Senator and Mrs. Paul Crabtree of Maine. The couple arrived in Manila recently on the first leg of a combined business and pleasure trip around the world.

THE President convoked the regular weekly meeting of his Cabinet at 10:45 a.m. The meeting which was held at the family dining room lasted until 12 noon.

At the Cabinet meeting the President took steps to prevent the arbitrary abolition of positions of provincial, municipal, and city employees. Moreover, the President:

- (1) Took steps to prevent delay in the construction of 19 government paving job projects in various parts of the country.
- (2) Approved the recommendation of Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma to organize Philippine goodwill trade missions to foreign countries, particularly in Europe and the Far East; and
- (3) Effected close coordination of activities on rural and community development in order to hasten the success of the expanded rural improvement program of the government.

In the course of the Cabinet meeting, the President said that he had been receiving reports to the effect that some municipalities were abolishing arbitrarily positions of civil service employees. He said he did not want this to happen. He directed Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez to look into alleged ordinances enacted by some local governments abolishing positions of civil service employees not motivated by financial exigencies or reasons of economy, but intended to accommodate new appointees. He told the finance secretary to study ways of annulling such ordinances and thus prevent injustices against civil service personnel.

Upon being informed by Secretary Moreno that 19 paving job projects of the government would face possible delays owing to the difficulties of contractors to secure dollars to import asphalt emulsion, President Magsaysay referred the matter to Secretary Hernandez for immediate action.

The finance secretary who is the chairman of the CB Monetary Board said that he would recommend favorably to the Monetary Board the allotment of some \$250,00 allocated to the Bureau of Public Highways to be used by the contractors for the importation of asphalt emulsion.

The Cabinet approved the organization of Philippine goodwill and trade missions to foreign countries, particularly to Europe and the Far East. It was understood that the members of these missions will travel at their own expense.

Secretary Ledesma stressed the importance of such missions. He said they would help carry out the policy of the Administration of placing new emphasis on the expansion of the country's foreign trade.

The President introduced Ramon P. Benamira to the members of the Cabinet as his assistant for community development. The President stressed the need for immediate implementation of rural development projects, such as barrio roads, and said that Benamira would be charged with expediting early action on rural projects. He requested

the Cabinet members to extend to Benamira whatever assistance might be needed to assure the success of the expanded rural improvement program.

Benamira explained that the main objective of the President's community development program was to coordinate governmental agencies so that services at the national, provincial, and municipal levels might be channeled down to the barrio for the benefit of the barrio people. He added that self-help on the part of the people and coordination of technical services were essential prerequisites to successful community development.

In the afternoon, the President worked on pending state papers in his bedroom.

March 15.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay said today that resolution of the reparations question between the Philippines and Japan had long been delayed and expressed the relief that it would be for the good of the two countries that it be settled now.

Aiichiro Fujiyama, Japanese Premier Ichiro Hatoyama's personal representative, delivered to the President this morning the premier's formal reply to the President's letter last August regarding the proposed \$800 million formula for settlement. In handing the note, Fujiyama conveyed the regrets of his prime minister over the delayed reply, attributing it to "conditions" in his home country.

To which the president answered: "I realize the conditions obtaining on Japan, but I think settlement of the reparations question has been delayed long enough and it would be for the good of both our countries if it be settled now."

Accompanied by Counsellor Toshio Urabe, chief of the Japanese mission in Manila, Fujiyama arrived at Malacañang about 8:30 a.m. They were received by the President at the Palace study at about 8:45 a.m.

After a brief exchange of amenities, Fujiyama handed the premier's letter introducing him to the Philippine chief executive. A few minutes later, he presented a sealed envelope containing the prime minister's reply on the reparations question. The audience lasted about six minutes. Also present was Ambassador Felino Neri, chief Philippine reparations negotiator.

In the course of the talks, the conferees took occasion to discuss ways and means of further developing mutual trade between the Philippines and Japan. The discussions were, however, cut short when the President said: "We will talk about this after the reparations issue has been settled."

ABOUT 9 a.m., the President received a delegation composed of all 45 mayors of Pangasinan which presented him with resolutions unanimously reiterating their support to his program of administration and urging him to run for reelection. Headed by Mayor Delfin Romero of San Quintin, speaker of the Pangasinan Mayors League, the delegation was accompanied to Malacañang by Gov. Conrado Estrella and Board Members Nancy Q. Sison and Dolores Acuña.

The President did not receive any other caller. He spent the rest of the morning in his study, poring over a pile of pending state papers.

IN the afternoon, the President received U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles with whom he conferred for one hour and five minutes at the Malacañang music room.

Dulles was accompanied to Malacañang by Walter S. Robertson, assistant secretary of state for Far Eastern affairs; Douglas MacArthur II, counselor for the State Department; U.S. Ambassador Homer Ferguson, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Raul S. Manglapus, and Foreign Affairs Protocol Officer Jose Estrella.

Mr. Dulles arrived at the Malacañang grounds a little before 5 p.m. and immediately reviewed a contingent of the Presidential Guards Battalion which gave him military honors. Then he went up the Palace and proceeded to the President's study room where he was greeted by the President.

After an exchange of amenities, the President led Mr. Dulles and his party to the music room where they held a closed-door from 5:10 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

Mr. Dulles related to the president his impressions of the SEATO council meeting at Karachi, Pakistan, held last week and said he found that the SEATO organization was growing in strength and confidence and that peace in Southeast Asia was more secure now than it has been in the past few years. Mr. Dulles also spoke of his visits to various Asian capitals.

The President reiterated the support of the Philippines for the efforts of the SEATO countries in uniting defensively against the threat of Communism in this area. He briefed Mr. Dulles about the shift in tactics of the Communists in the Philippines. He said that the latter had turned to economic sabotage, in their drive to undermine the people's confidence in the government. He assured Mr. Dulles, however, that the government was in full control of the situation.

Mr. Dulles, in turn, assured the President of continued support of the United States for the Philippines in the latter's efforts towards economic security. They agreed that economic stability was one of the conditions needed for the defense of democracy in Asia.

In the course of the lengthy conversation several subjects concerned with Philippine-U.S. relations were explored informally. While the nature of these subjects and the conclusions reached cannot be disclosed pending the customary official exchanges between the two governments, arrangement in principles was achieved.

Secretary Dulles reiterated President Eisenhower's invitation to President Magsaysay to visit the United States. But the President said that he felt he might not be able to go this year owing to pressure of work at home.

President Magsaysay this evening in speaking of Mr. Dulles said: "The patience, the understanding, and the tested ability of Mr. Dulles, when brought to bear upon the problems of Philippine-American relations, are some of our surest guarantees that these relations will continue to be strong and friendly."

The President made these remarks after the formal dinner which President and Mrs. Magsaysay gave in honor of U.S. Secretary of State and Mrs. John Foster Dulles at 8 p.m. at the Malacañang state dining room.

In paying tribute to Secretary Dulles, President Magsaysay added, "Free men everywhere have learned to look to look to him as a string rallying point for peace and security against the forces that threaten world freedom."

The President said that since Dulles' last visit to the Philippines, the security of this area, "owing in great part to his diplomatic action, has become further strengthened."

"But," the President continued, "time brings other problems and there will always be new difficulties to pour into the patient ears of Secretary Dulles." (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 1253-1254, for the full text of the President's oration.)

Congress leader, members of the local and foreign diplomatic corps, Cabinet members, top brass of the AFP and US Armed Forces stationed in the Philippines, and local publishers were invited to the dinner.

March 16.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning discussed with two experts on security printing from Holland the possibility of establishing here a security printing plant which would print local currency, documentary stamps, and all types of security papers.

The Hollanders were B.F. Enschede and Victorio Pinto. They informed the President that they also had conferred preliminary on the matter with Sen. Gil. J. Puyat, acting National Economic Council presiding officer.

Enschede and Pinto, who were accompanied by Hans Menzi and C. Gramiger of the Menzi and Co., showed the President samples of Holland paper money and negatives of security papers made by them. They also told the President that paper could be manufactured here out of rice straw.

The President was impressed by the idea of establishing the security printing plant here. He told the Hollanders to discuss the subject further with Sen. Puyat.

The Chief Executive then called NDC Manager Jose H. Panganiban and directed him to research on the use of rice straw for the manufacture of paper.

The President then received the Philippine delegation to the recent SEATO conference in Karachi, Pakistan, headed by Vice-President and concurrently Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Garcia. The delegation, which included Press Secretary J.V. Cruz, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Brig. Gen. Pelagio Cruz, Navy Capt. Carlos Albert, Col. Dionisio Ojeda, Dr. Amando Dalisay, and Jose Fernandez, paid their respects to the President. Vice-President Garcia said the Karachi conference was "successful."

Rep. Pio Duran, who was reported to be one of the majority congressmen against the enactment of the bill granting tariff powers to the President, also called on the Chief Executive. He issued the following statement after the call:

"I am in favor of granting power to the President to raise or lower tariff rates on specific items, such as cement, asphalt, and reinforcing steel rods which are necessary for public construction projects. I am sure that if this matter had been explained thoroughly at our caucus, the majority of the congressmen would have approved the bill. The items are essential for roads, bridges, and irrigation systems. The lowering of tariff rates, however, shall be done in such a way as not to prejudice local industries."

STARTING at 9 a.m., the President received callers, many of whom came from the provinces, asking for material and financial aid for public works projects. The received callers up to 1 p.m.

Among the early callers of the President was a group of Indonesian editors accompanied by Amadeo Dacanay of the *Evening News*. The Indonesian editors, who were on their way to Tokyo, Japan, for a conference talked with the President for about 15 minutes.

Freedom of the press, the acceptance by Indonesian President Achmed Sukano of the invitation to visit the United States, and the projected second Afro-Asian conference in Cairo, Egypt, were the subjects discussed by the President with the Indonesian editors. The President said he was glad President Sukarno had accepted the invitation to visit the United States.

The Indonesian editors in the group were Adam Malik of the News Agency Antara, Adinegoro of the News Agency PIA, Mr. and Mrs. J. Tarsif of the *Daily Abadi*, Marbangun of the Indonesian Institute for the Press and Public Opinion, Mr. and Mrs. Rosihan Anwar of the *Pedoman*, Publisher A.K. Loebis of the *Pedoman*, Mechtar Lubis of the *Indonesian Raya*, and Mrs. Usmar Ismail.

Sen. Quintin Paredes; Reps. Manuel Cases of La Union, Lucas Paredes of Abra, and Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur; and Gov. Pedro Singson Reyes headed a delegation from the Ilocos provinces. They requested aid for public works projects.

Rep. Ignacio Cruz of Misamis Oriental accompanied a group of municipal officials from his province who asked for artesian wells and puericulture centers. Among those in the Misamis Oriental delegation were Mayors Francisco Abarientos of Talisayan, Vicente Santos of Kinagitan, Felipe Asenas of Balingwan, Perfecto Ubalde of Gingoog, Alejandro Uy of Manticao, Marcelo Abad, and Pedro Yañez.

Rep. Pedro Lopez of Cebu was told by the President that Cebu would be made one of the model provinces in community development. The President Ramon Binamira to proceed to Cebu and start community development there.

A group of Catanduanes mayors, headed by Mayor Primo Pinto of Virac, also called on the President and asked for pre-fabricated school-houses, artesian wells, and funds for the construction of barrio roads.

The other callers of the President included Rep. Jacobo Gonzales of Laguna, Manuel Enverga of Quezon, Ombra Amilbangsa of Sulu, Leon Guinto, Jr., of Quezon, Leonardo Perez of Nueva Vizcaya, Numeriano Babao of Batangas, and Celestino Juan of Nueva Ecija; Gov. Juan Triviño of Camarines Sur; and ex-Sens. Macario Peralá and Tomas Cabili.

THE President this afternoon directed the NAMARCO board chairman, Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, to tell the Philippine National Bank to relax its stiff regulations regarding giving of loans to retailer from the P5 million guarantee fund made available to them.

A guarantee of P5 million had been set aside for retailers to help them. The President said that he wanted the retailers to enjoy the benefits of this guarantee fund.

He also said that, if he could see that the people were being served properly and effectively by the NAMARCO, he would not hesitate to recommend an increase in the dollar allocations of the corporation.

The Chief Executive gave these statements during the call of some 157 NAMARCO provincial and municipal distributors now attending their first national convention in Manila. They paid their respects to the Chief Executive. The delegates were accompanied to Malacañang by NAMARCO Board Chairman Ledesma, NAMARCO General Manager Manuel J. Gonzalez, Convention Chairman Jose R.L. Orosa, and Convention Secretary Teofilo Tanjuatco.

Mr. Orosa read to the President a resolution expressing the distributors' appreciation for the President's interest in the NAMARCO and in the enhancement of Filipino business, especially for his policy towards the Filipinization of the retail trade.

In a brief extemporaneous remarks, the President told the distributors that he was watching very closely their performance in distributing the NAMARCO's good to retailers throughout the Philippines. He said that if a great portion of the people were properly served by NAMARCO with goods at reasonable prices, he would not hesitate to increase the corporation's dollar allocations so that it could acquire more goods for distribution.

After the President's speech, the distributors approached the President and asked him to retain the present NAMARCO general manager, Manuel J. Gonzalez.

The President said that he knew Gonzalez did not want to stay long in the corporation. He said that his original request to Gonzalez was to serve for only six months but that he had to keep him longer as general manager for the good of the service.

The President told the distributors to be alert in bringing their complaints about the manner of NAMARCO distribution to Chairman Ledesma or to General Manager Gonzalez. He said that if they could not get results this way they could forward their complaints directly by telegram to the President.

The President then honored the distributors with cocktails.

March 17.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today requested the United States Government to send to the Philippines large quantities of rice, cotton, milk, beef, and other essentials without the use of dollar exchange. He made the request through Col. Harry A. Brenn, chief of the local ICA branch, in the course of a breakfast conference at

Malacañang this morning. The President proposed it as a means of conserving the nation's dollar reserves. He pointed out that in textiles alone, the Philippines was importing \$140 million worth of the commodity a year.

At breakfast with the President were Nicanor Tomas, deputy governor of the Central Bank, and Col. Osmundo Mondoñedo, ACCFA administrator. The President instructed Central Bank and RFC officials to coordinate in order to insure the availability of sufficient funds for the ACCFA for the uninterrupted purchase of tobacco from the farmers to prevent the local produce from falling into the hands of unscrupulous alien traders.

In the course of the conference, Col. Mondoñedo reported that the tobacco refrying plant at Agoo, La Union, costing P3 million would be finished about the middle of next month. The Chief Executive ordered that the construction of the P5 million refrigeration plant in Bulacan be expedited so that fish, eggs, and other perishables produced here could be preserved. This would prevent their forced sale to unscrupulous middlemen.

Also at the conference were J. Morden Murphy and Elsworth Donell, vice-president and director, respectively, of the Banker's Trust Company of New York, U.S.A. They were accompanied to Malacañang by Alfonso Calalang, president of the Bankers Association of the Philippines, and Ramon del Rosario, vice-president of the Philippine-American Life Insurance Company. The visiting banking executives arrived in Manila recently to look into the possibilities of the local mining industry.

Earlier this morning, the President conferred with Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff. After breakfast, he had another conference with Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, who consulted him on matters pertaining to his department.

ABOUT 11 a.m., the President repaired to his private study, where he worked on pending papers. He signed a letter to Congress certifying to the urgency of House Bill No. 5093, appropriating P200,000 for the employment of temporary personnel in the Bureau of Posts from February to June this year, for the purpose of clearing the Post Office of a backlog of undelivered mail.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay met today with some members of the Central Bank survey commission who told him that the group's report was now being written and would be in the Chief Executive's hands "very soon." The President held a 30-minute conference past noon with Commission Members Francisco Ortigas, Jr., Dean Vicente Sinco, and Dean Vicente Fabella.

The commission members told the President that their group had completed its studies and hearing and was already in the process of writing its report and its recommendations.

The CB survey commission under the chairmanship first of former Justice Luis P. Torres, now deceased, and now of former Philippine National Bank President Rafael Corpus had been charged by the President with the task of studying possible changes and reforms in the CB charter.

Already the commission has submitted a partial report to the President urging that persons with "active service" in large commercial, financial, or industrial interests be inhibited from appointment to the Monetary Board. This report formed part of the basis of the President's acceptance of the resignation of three Monetary Board members early this year.

Others members of the commission, besides Corpus and those who saw the President today, are former Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro, Filemon C. Rodriguez, and Demetrio Santos.

March 18.—THE President this day was distributed by the reportedly worsening situation of the "cadet raw" at the University of the Philippines. It was feared that if the situation is not placed under control there would be virtual mutiny, as it was reported that some cadet officers were planning to resign their positions and defer completion of their ROTC training until the case has been satisfactorily solved.

A Malacañang spokesman said the President was awaiting a report on the investigation of the case, if any had been ordered at all by Dr. Vidal A. Tan, president of University of the Philippines.

The spokesman said that, according to information, the conduct of some U.P. cadets had reached a “discouraging low.” Some of the cadets, it was learned, reportedly saluted with their left hands, booed, put on civilian clothes, and wore “tango” shoes during parades. Such misconduct allegedly shown by U.P. cadets had never happened before, the spokesman was told.

The spokesman said the President, aside from the fact that he was disturbed by these reports about the U.P. cadets, expressed the desire that the case be looked into very thoroughly.

THE President also told today Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao to look unto reports that no civilians were included among those given competitive tests for admission to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point this year. It was learned that only Philippine Military cadets were allowed to take the examinations.

The President spent the rest of the day working on a backlog of state papers. There were no callers.

At 5:30 p.m. the President motored to the Lourdes Church at Quezon City, where he stood sponsor at the confirmation of Georgia, daughter of Cebu City Mayor and Mrs. Sergio Osmeña, Jr. He was accompanied by his aide, Maj. Jose Estrella.

March 19.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning approved the sending of two Manila councilors to the United States under ICA sponsorship to study municipal administration at a breakfast conference with Manila Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson and Vice-Mayor Jesus Marcos Roces. During the breakfast conference, the President also:

- (1) Approved the transfer of the Anda monument from Bonifacio Drive to Plaza Sta. Cruz;
- (2) Directed the survey of new possible sites for a gravel plant for Manila; and
- (3) Asked for plans for the establishment of a network of neighborhood playgrounds in Manila.

The Manila councilors to be sent abroad to study municipal administration are Angel Linao and Justo Albert. They were recommended by Mayor Lacson and Vice-Mayor Roces.

According to Mayor Lacson, the Anda monument’s proper place should be on Plaza Sta. Cruz because it was at that place where Simon de Anda won back Manila from the British.

The survey of new possible sites for a gravel plant for Manila was discussed owing to the withdrawal of a presidential proclamation giving the city government the right to haul and process gravel from a portion of the Montalban River. It was found out that Montalban had propriety right to the portion allocated to Manila and for this reason the proclamation was rescinded.

The President directed the government agencies concerned to look for other possible sites for a gravel plant for Manila so that the progress of the public works construction in the city would not be hampered.

Mayor Lacson and Vice-Mayor Roces informed the President of the need for a network of neighborhood playgrounds in Manila where children could play safely without exposing themselves to vehicular dangers. According to the Manila executives, most of the playgrounds were located south of the Pasig River. They told the President that if a network of neighborhood playgrounds could be constructed in northern Manila, this would help very much in the solution of juvenile delinquency.

The President told the Manila officials to select the sites and submit the plans for the playgrounds. The breakfast conference started at 8 a.m. and lasted for an hour.

AFTER the breakfast conference, the President received callers at his study.

A delegation of farmers from Bahay Pare, Candaba, Pampanga, complained of terrorism in the area by armed men headed by a former civilian guard captain.

After hearing the complaint, the President ordered Col. Ramon Gelvezon, CIS chief to investigate the charges.

The Bahay Pare farmers also complained that they were no longer allowed to plant on the privately-owned farms they used to till. They requested the President to expropriate the land. The farmers told the President that there was some kind of “unrent” in their barrio arising from the actuations of the former civilian guard captain, Jeremias Sta. Maria, and the refusal of the land-owners to let the farmers till the land.

The President assured the farmers that he would direct Land Tenure Commissioner Manuel Castañeda to expropriate the land which comprises about 300 hectares.

The farmers, headed by Pacifico Garcia, also told the President that Sta. Maria killed two carabaos not belonging to him with his gun. The owner of the carabaos was among those in the delegation numbering about 150. The President also telephoned the 1st MA authorities to look into the situation in Bahay Pare, Candaba, on the strength of the farmer’s complaints.

THE President also received the Philippine delegation to the Far East Airlift Project, under the sponsorship of the Boy Scouts of America, designed for international goodwill and understanding. The Philippine Boy Scouts, numbering 12, are scheduled to visit American homes in California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona.

The Chief Executive told the Boy Scouts that they will be Philippine ambassadors of goodwill while they are in the United States. He wished them luck and presented them with a Philippine flag which they would carry with them throughout their stay in the United States.

The Philippine Boy Scouts going to the United States are Manuel Nolasco, Roberto de los Reyes, Norman Barber, Rufino Juco, Salvador Silvestre, Pedro Paluay, Virgilio Olamit, Romulo Yap, Rolando Doctora, Alfredo de los Reyes, Alexander Sanchez, and Dionision Santos.

THOMAS Cort, sales manager of the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, presented and demonstrated a Thermo-Fox Secretary Copying machine manufactured by his company. The machine copies any typewritten or written material within less than four second. According to Cort, the machine which costs P1,500, was also used by United States President Eisenhower when he attended the Geneva conference.

The machine is being assembled in the Philippines and is being distributed by Vasquez Bros. Aside from Cert, Lars O. Frey, Far East manager of the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, and Pedro Vasquez were also present at the demonstration of the machine.

Senator Domocao Alonto accompanied officers and members of the Filipino Flour Importers Association who petitioned the President to have the NAMARCO import flour and then distribute it to Filipino flour dealers. The President said that he would refer the matter to the Central Bank. On the same occasion, E.V. Mendoza, president of the Federation of Filipino Retailers, invited the President to be the guest speaker at a convention of the federation on April 8. The Chief Executive accepted the invitation.

Rep. Emilio Cortez also accompanied a big delegation from Pampanga. The delegation was composed mostly of tenants and farmers who asked for artesian wells, barrio roads, and irrigation systems.

Another delegation which also called on the President was a group of squatters in Sta. Ana who sought the help of the President in the ejectment order against them. They told the President that the owner of the lot was a Chinese. The President directed PCAC Chairman Frisco San Juan to look into the case.

Gov. Antonio Raquiza of Ilocos Norte headed a group of municipal officials from his province. Requested by the municipal officials from the President was aid for the reconstruction of typhoon-damaged markets, pre-fabricated school houses, and irrigation systems.

Members of the Philippine College of Commerce Alumni Association called on the President and protested against the recommendation of the Government Survey and Reorganization Commission to revert the PCC to school status. The President told the alumni association, headed by Jose Fernandez Zorilla, to talk to the members of Congress where the reorganization plans were pending.

Other callers of the President included Reps. Panfilo Manguera of Marinduque, Lorenzo Teves of Negros Oriental, and Apolinario Apacible of Batangas; and ex-Gov. Patricio Fernandez of Palawan, U.S. Col. Stuart McDonald, William Hamby, and Eric Rettig.

IN the afternoon, the President conferred with Ambassador Felino Neri to warn the latter against possible loopholes in the proposed reparations agreement with Japan.

The President told newsmen at a press conference held later in the afternoon at the Palace dining room that he would ask Congress shortly to create an office which will handle the disposition of any reparations items the Philippines may get from Japan under the reparations agreement.

“It is up to Congress,” the President shot back when they asked him the identity of the government agency which will handle the reparations the Philippines may get from Japan.

The President said the Philippine working group headed by Ceasar Lanuza is at present going “minutely and thoroughly” over the draft of the reparations agreement. He said careful studies have been made in order that any loopholes in the proposed agreement may be plugged before accord is finally signed by the plenipotentiaries of both the Philippines and Japan.

“We may lose several millions on account of a loophole in the agreement,” the President pointed out.

In the course of the press conference, the President said he may go on a state visit to the United States and to some other countries of Europe and Asia next year. He categorically said he has given up hope of making the state visit to the United States this year.

He admitted that he has received four formal invitations from U.S. President Eisenhower for a state visit to the United States.

The President said that “pressure of work here” has prevented him from leaving the country this year. He said in his projected trip next year he may pass by Spain.

The President also disclosed during the press conference that he had directed Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., to look into the controversy over the choice of the U.P. ROTC cadet commander. The Chief Executive showed deep concern over the development of the controversy in the choice of a corps commander in the ROTC of the State University.

The President directed Secretary Hernandez, to see U.P. President Vidal Tan about the U.P. ROTC case. It was reported that cadets saluted with their left hands and joined a parade in civilian attire.

The President said that the nation expected discipline in the U.P. which was supposed to be the model institution in the country.

The President told Hernandez that discipline should be imposed among the U.P. ROTC cadets. He said the U.P. should be an example for other colleges and universities to follow. He also said that the U.P. ROTC cadets involved

in the incident could be Army officers in the future and discipline, which is of basic importance in the Army, should be imposed among them now.

The President also told the press conference that the Philippines will relax its restrictions on the importation of Virginia leaf tobacco only if the move is “compatible with the national interest of the country.” He made the statement in answer to a proposed U.S. Congress legislation banning the Philippines from participating in coming talks to increase sugar quota allocations in the United States.

The proposed U.S. legislation would deprive the Philippine of part in the sugar quota talks unless it relaxes its restrictions on the importation of Virginia leaf tobacco.

The President also said at the press conference that:

1. He is against trading with Communist China; and
2. He will exempt Filipino pensionados or scholars taking technical courses abroad from the government policy cutting dollar allocations to Filipino students.

March 20.—EX-PRESIDENT and Mrs. Sergio Osmeña, Sr., were breakfast guests at Malacañang this morning of the President and Mrs. Magsaysay. The couple was accompanied to the Palace by Dr. Elpidio Valencia, their son-in-law.

President Magsaysay received no less than 1,000 callers in the course of another heavy schedule today.

After his breakfast with the Osmeñas, the President received a 200-man delegation composed of farmers from Lubao, Pampanga. The delegation sought the subdivision and distribution to them of 300-hectare government land when he leasehold right previously awarded to a private individual by the defunct Rural Progress Administration expires this year. The delegation, accompanied by Rep. Diosdado Macapagal, informed the President that the land was now being applied for by politicians and big landowners.

The President ordered the Bureau of Lands to give priority to the landless tenants in the acquisition of the land.

The most colorful delegation received by the President this day was composed of natives of Kalinga headed by their tribal chief, Pedro Latawan. The tribesmen came in G-strings.

The five-man delegation requested that a piece of government land be allocated to their tribe. Speaking in Ilocano, Latawan said that members of his tribe had been separated and scattered over a wide area, as they were constantly being driven away from places where they tried to settle.

Acting swiftly on the complaints of the Kalinga natives, the President directed the Bureau of Lands to assign a tract of land in Aurora, Isabela where the tribe could permanently settle.

Dr. Ariston Hermano, chief of the paper-making research division of the NDC, showed the President experimental samples of products produced by his division out of waste materials from abaca, rice, banana, and locally grown plants. Accompanied by Reps. Godofredo Ramos and Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz, Dr. Hermano said that paper products for various uses could be manufactured here in large quantities with the proper equipment and machinery. The President promised to take up the matter with the National Economic Council.

Other provincial delegations this morning were those from Cavite, accompanied by Rep. Jose T. Cajulis; from Nueva Vizcaya, headed by Reps. Leonardo Perez and Mayor Castillo Tindang of Kayapa; from Santiago, Isabela, headed by Rep. Samuel F. Reyes and Mayor Juan de la Cruz; from Surigao, accompanied by Rep. Reynaldo P. Honrado and Mayors Wenceslao Andanan of Sapao and Jose Martinez of Cortez; from Macalelon, Quezon, headed by Rep. Leon Guinto, Jr., and Mayors Pilar Rodriguez; from Nueva Ecija, headed by Gov. Amado Aleta and Mayors Numeriano Villaroman of San Leonardo and Manuel Mesina of Laur; from Siquijor, headed by Rep. Lamberto

Macias and composed of Mayors Roque Aquino of Villanueva, Felix Cortez of Siquijor, Antonio Alberto of Larina, Vicente Monte of Lazi, Felipe Azoc of Sta. Maria, and Martiniano Abing of San Juan;

from Leyte headed by Speaker Protempore Daniel Z. Romualdez and composed of Mayors Ildefonso Cinco of Tacloban City, Francisco Lopez of Sta. Fe, and Gil Japson of Hinundayan; from Cabanatuan, Iloilo, headed by Rep. Ramon C. Taboana and Mayor Jose C. Gudoriagao; from Cabadbaran, Agusan accompanied by Rep. Guillermo R. Sanchez, Gov. Felisberto Dagani, and Mayor Teofilo Curato; from Sorsogon, composed of Rep. Vicente L. Peralta, Gov. Juan Frivaldo, and Mayors Leopoldo Figueroa of Bacon and Amando Ortiz of Pilar; and from Samar, headed by Rep. Marciano Lim and Mayors Juan Gorgonia of Palapag, Eduardo Gabral of Villareal, Macario Ferreras of Marabut, and Francisco Macato of Talalura.

Among individual callers were Arsenio J. Jison, PNB president, who consulted the Chief Executive on routine matters; Reps. Angel Castaño of Manila, Ricardo Y. Ladrado of Iloilo, Conrado Moreno of Mindoro Oriental, and Carlos Hilado of Negros Occidental; Gov. Antonio Raquiza of Ilocos Norte; Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr.; and Mrs. Esmeraldo Eco, wife of the governor of Camarine Norte.

March 21.—IGNORING protocol once more, the President again met Congress leaders this morning at a breakfast conference held at the residence of Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., in Mandaluyong, Rizal. They discussed the tariff powers bill and other pending bills in Congress.

LATER this morning, the President and Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia conferred on the composition of the Philippine delegation to the final conference here for the conclusion of a reparations agreement with Japan. Garcia concurrently secretary of foreign affairs, said no names were mentioned. He said only the delegation size, which he did not disclose, was discussed.

MEMBERS of the advisory board to the Abaca Corporation called on the President this noon and submitted its final report on recommendations on ways and means of extending effective government aid to the abaca industry with a view to hastening its development.

The recommendations included the disposition of the balance of P18 million of the P20 million capitalization of the Abaca Corporation earmarked for release this year. Disposition of the P18 million, as recommended by the board, would be itemized as follows:

- (1) P11,100,000 or 61.67 per cent to be given to municipal cooperatives and abaca farmers in the form of commodity, facility, and other kinds of loans;
- (2) P2,000,000 or 11.11 per cent as loans to those engaged in the manufacture of abaca by-products for the purpose of encouraging cottage industries in abaca-producing provinces and to make use of abaca waste;
- (3) P1,000,000 or 5.55 per cent for the purchase of stripping machines for distribution to abaca-producing regions for the use of small farmers;
- (4) P400,000 or 2.23 per cent for the purchase of 10 small decorating machines to be installed in large abaca-producing areas where installation of larger types is not feasible;
- (5) P3,000,000 or 16.16 per cent for the purchase and installation of two Corona type decorating machines in places where their installation is practicable; and
- (6) 500,000 or 2.78 per cent for research and information on abaca.

The Abaca Corporation was organized last year under Republic Act No. 1295 with as authorized capitalization of P20 million, of which P2 million has been released. During the call at Malacañang of delegates to the National

convention of abaca producers in Manila last month, a formal petition was submitted for the release of the balance of P18 million.

The President told the conventionalists to organize an advisory board to the Abaca Corporation to study, among other things, ways of making use of the amount so that it might be utilized to the best advantage.

Members of the advisory board who went to Malacañang this noon were Felix S. Imperial, general manager of the Abaca Corporation, board chairman; Cayetano Pineda, director of the Bureau of Agricultural Extension, vice-chairman; Honesto de Vera, secretary; and Ricardo Ledesma, Gil F. Gadi, Antonio Florendo, and Joseph Perez de Tagle, members. Also present was Rep. Pio Duran of Albay, author of the law creating the Abaca Corporation.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay at the Cabinet meeting today referred to the National Economic Council for study the feasibility of importing machinery to manufacture paper from rice straw and other waste materials of local plants.

The President also noted the offer of an American manufacturer to sell an improved type of corn mill which can grind corn meal that will keep longer owing to an improved process. The President said he had no objection to the proposition provided that satisfactory arrangements can be made regarding the supply of dollars.

The Cabinet also took up some cases of government scholars granted fellowships abroad which were submitted for reconsideration, and heard Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason report on a case pending in his department.

The Cabinet meeting, presided over by the President, lasted from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It was held at the family dining room.

President Magsaysay told Andres O. Hizon, executive officer of the NEC, to have the NEC look into the possibility of importing machinery which could manufacture paper out of waste material from abaca, rice, coconuts, and other locally grown plants. The President said that he would be glad if private parties would engage in this business. However, he said that if nobody would pioneer in the manufacture of paper, the government might start one.

The President called for Dr. Ariston J. Hermano, chief of the technical department of the National Development Company, to attend the meeting. Hermano showed the Cabinet experimental samples of products produced by the paper-making research division of the NDC.

NARIC General Manager Jacinto Gavino showed President Magsaysay during the Cabinet meeting, samples of corn meal ground by a mobile corn mill which incorporated new devices to enable the ground corn to keep longer.

On suggestion of Gavino, samples of the pure ground corn meal, a mixture of 25 per cent corn meal and 75 per cent rice, and another mixture of 50 per cent corn meal and 50 per cent rice were ordered cooked at the Malacañang kitchen. The cooked samples were afterwards passed around to the Cabinet members who found them similar in taste to rice. Gavino said the NARIC would order one of the corn mills.

Robert Kaufman, representing the Noram-Grex Company of Boston, Massachusetts, manufacturer of the corn mill, who was present at the meeting, said that there were plans of the company to include the enrichment of corn meal.

The Cabinet approved the nominations of Augusto G. Santos-Ocampo, chemistry instructor of the University of the Philippines, and Guillermo C. Corpus, mechanical engineer of the Nation Power Corporation, for the training grants in reactor course at the Reactor Training School of Nuclear Science and Engineering, Argonne National Laboratory, U.S.A. These training grants are given under the fiscal year 1956, ICA-NEC Type A technical assistance program for a period of 10 months.

In this connection, the President mentioned to the Cabinet the name of Navy Lt. Comdr. Marcelino Calinawan, his appointments secretary, as one of the best qualified Filipinos to work in the proposed Atomic Research Center whose site will be in the Philippines. Calinawan undertook years of study of atomic research in the Oak Ridge plant at Tennessee.

The Cabinet also authorized the trip to the United States of Jose Viado and Dominador G. Faustino, both foresters in the Bureau of Forestry, for fellowships granted to them by the Food and Agricultural Organization for a period of one year. Expenses such as cost of travel within the United States, tuition fees, book and living expenses, and return transportation from Washington to Manila will be borne by the FAO.

The Cabinet moreover, authorized the trip to the United States of Miss Romola A. Corcuera of the Bureau of Public Highways as paid trainee in the Michigan State Highway Department. Miss Corcuera is going to the United States under the "Paid Trainee Program" for a period of two years.

Secretary Tuason informed the President and the Cabinet that he had ordered the provincial fiscal of Pampanga to file a motion for the enforcement of a decision rendered by the Supreme Court in Mercado vs. Municipality of Macabebe case decided in 1934. Under the decision of the Supreme Court, a landowner was required to remove two dikes which he had constructed at both ends of a creek running through his hacienda, converting the creek into a fishpond.

The Supreme Court was of the opinion that the creek belonged to the public domain and was a part of a navigable river devoted to public use. The removal of the dikes was thus ordered. The landowner, however, filed a motion to postpone the enforcement of the Supreme Court decision.

Sometime in June, 1934, the motion for postponement of the removal of the dikes was granted by the lower court, explaining the delay in its enforcement.

When a complaint was registered with Malacañang by the townspeople of Sexmoan a few days after the President immediately referred the matter to Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason for implementation.

The President said that the Administration as a matter of policy was for the opening up of all public streams to public use in order to benefit the greatest possible number of people.

The President also denounced the reported boast made by the landowner as reported by the residents of Sexmoan to the effect that he would not be made to comply with the Supreme Court decision because he allegedly was "strong" with the Nacionalista Party and high government officials. The President re-emphasized that under this Administration no man was above law, no matter what connections he may claim.

March 22.—THIS morning, the President had breakfast with newly-elected officers of the National Press Club, who called to pay their respects. The NPC officers were Jose Aspiras, president, Osmundo Abad Santos and Luis R. Mauricio, vice-presidents, Enriqueta David Perez, treasurer; Jo Quiambao and Virtudes Guinto, secretary; and Gregorio Coronel, Ernesto Granada, Jose Arcangel, Ernesto Ilustre, Francisco de Leon, and Cita Trinidad, board directors.

AFTER breakfast, the President received scheduled callers at his study. CB Governor Miguel Cuaderno called to pay his respects following his recent arrival from the United States. The call lasted only about two minutes.

A large delegation composed of about 1,000 men, women, and children marched to Malacañang this morning to seek the President's assistance in connection with the court order ejecting them from the government lots. The delegation represented some 10,000 families who had been squatting on public property all over the city since liberation.

Receiving the group at Malacañang's social hall, the President explained that it was not within his power to stay the supreme court order ejectment. He would, however, help the squatters by looking for a suitable settlement area near the city and provide them with trucks and moving equipment with which to move their homes and personal belongings.

The President later contacted Vicente Orosa, general manager of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation, and instructed him to survey public lands near Manila and to set aside a suitable location for the squatters. The delegation was accompanied to Malacañang by House Majority Floor Leader Arturo M. Tolentino.

Officers of the League of Provincial and City Health Officers headed by their president, Dr. Gregorio Enriquez, invited the President to be guest of honor at their first national convention to be held at the Pines Hotel in Baguio on April 9.

A CONVETS delegation headed by Col. Malencio O. Orbase, national commander, presented 10 resolutions passed at their national convention last March 10 seeking, among other things, the construction of a monument in honor of Filipino soldiers who gave their lives during World War II, and the proclamation of February 3 of each year as a public holiday in observance of Liberation Day.

Salvador L. Pacis, president of the Negros Occidental Retailers Association, called to thank the President for the recent release of P500,000 which had been made available for loans for Filipino retailers in his province. During his call, Pacis suggested that loans be granted only to Filipino merchants with limited capital.

Gov. Jose Espino of Nueva Vizcaya brought to the President three mayors from his province who, like him, had won on an independent ticket in the last local elections. During the call, the three mayors, namely, Antonio L. Tottoc of Solano, Eriberto Albano of Dupax, and Gregorio Cancino of Aritao, were formally sworn into the Nacionalista Party by the President.

The Chief Executive followed another heavy schedule of callers this morning. He received visitors in his study until 1 p.m. Callers consisted mostly of the usual delegations from the provinces who requested aid for their respective localities.

Such delegations were those from Iloilo which included Sen. Fernando Lopez, Rep. Jose Aldeguer and Mayor Jose Guidoriago of Cabanatuan; from Mindoro Oriental, accompanied by Gov. Francisco Infantado; from Capiz, composed of Reps. Godofredo Ramos and Carmen Dinglasan-Consing and Mayors Blacanieves Fojas of Altavas and Rafael de Claro of Maayon; from Palawan, composed of Rep. Gaudencio Abordo, Mayor Domingo Mercado of Taytay, and some councilors; from Tarlac, composed of Mayors Manuel Cabrera of Camiling, Felipe Obillo of Moncada, Pedro Parcasio of Pura, Florencio Molina of Sta. Ignacia, Patrocinio Gamido of Victoria, and Silvestre Sabado of Anaw; from Cotabato, which included Mayors Jose Improgo, Jr., of Banga and Jose Guerrero of Lambayong; from Nueva Ecija, headed by Mayors Magno S. Gatchalian of Paombong and Paterno Santiano of Cabiao; and from Pampanga, headed by Gov. Rafael Lazatin.

Among individual callers were Reps. Pio Duran of Albay, Ramon Durano of Cebu, Carlos Hilado of Negros Occidental, Ramon Mitra of Mountain Province, Pedro Trono of Iloilo, Jose Puey of Negros Occidental, and Mrs. Trinidad de Leon Roxas, wife of former President Roxas.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning was informed by National Treasurer Vicente Gella that the trust fund for war veterans, widows, and orphans raised 10 years ago was intact and deposited in three local banks.

Gella, who was called by the President by telephone, said the money, amounting to P829,077.38, was deposited in the name of the Roxas Memorial Commission for the benefit of war veterans, widows, and orphans. The commission is under the chairmanship of Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno.

The trust funds was deposited in the Philippine Bank of Commerce, the Security Bank and trust Company, and the Philippine National Bank. The money has been deposited in the three banks since 1953 and has been earning yearly interest since then.

Mrs. Trinidad Roxas, widow of the late president Manuel Roxas under whose term the money was raised, called on the President this morning and complained against the investigation of Dr. Gaudencio Garcia, who reported that part of the fund was missing.

The President said the he never directed Dr. Garcia to conduct an investigation on the veterans' money. Mrs. Roxas told the President that no part of the veterans' fund had been deposited in the name of a private person contrary to what was reported.

Immediately after talking to Mrs. Roxas, the President called National Treasurer Vicente Gella by telephone and asked him about the money. According to Gella the veterans' fund was deposited in the name of the Roxas Memorial Commission in three local banks as follows:

- (1) Philippine Bank of Commerce – P153,750 (Time Deposit) at two and a half per cent interest per annum;
- (2) Security Bank and Trust Company – P577,843.75 (Time Deposit) at three per cent interest per annum;
- (3) Security Bank and Trust Company – P41,192.46 (Savings Deposit) at two per cent interest per annum; and
- (4) Philippine National Bank – P56,291.17 (Demand Deposit).

The total amount, according to Gella, is P829,077.38. He said that in 1953, when the money was first deposited in the three banks, it was a little over P700,000. The total amount now is more than P800,000 because of the interest it has accumulated since 1953.

Gella said all withdrawals from the veterans' fund were subject to audit by the General Auditing Office. Gella also assured the President that the money was intact and no part of it was missing.

IN the afternoon, the President told CEPOC officials that the cement production of the CEPOC was way below production schedule because of weak, lax, and incompetent management.

The President said this inability of the CEPOC to meet cement production requirements would jeopardize the speedy completion of many of the government projects intended to benefit the people.

The Chief Executive made these remarks as he conferred with Augusto Sevilla, chairman of the CEPOC board of directors, and Col. Antonio Chanco, CEPOC board member, at a conference in Malacañang this afternoon.

In the course of the conference, the President inquired from the CEPOC officials about their daily productions. Sevilla said that while the CEPOC was expected to produce 20,000 bags a day, actually it was putting out an average of from 10,000 to 15,000 bags daily.

The President was greatly alarmed by this production deficiency especially during this season. He said that at this slow rate of production government projects like irrigation systems, roads, public buildings, and other constructions requiring cement would be greatly slowed down.

The CEPOC officials said that if cement were impotent to fill the deficiency in the local supply, each bag will cost P7 delivered to the consumer.

The Chief Executive expressed dissatisfaction with the weak CEPOC management which could not meet the needs of the people. Present CEPOC general-manager is Isaias Fernando.

The President also appointed this afternoon Col. Antonio Chanco as chairman of a committee to appraise the old reparations materials that came from Japan. Chanco was empowered by the President to choose other members of the committee to assist him in his work of evaluating these materials.

The President directed Chanco to make an immediate study of these old reparations stock, rehabilitate them or put them in working condition if possible, determine their cost, and place them in an accessible place so that they could be sold and otherwise made use of. He directed that NASSCO General Manager Bernardo Abrera furnish the Chanco committee with all the available data regarding these old reparations materials including the list of those persons who had signified their intention to buy them before.

Chanco was directed to get a big warehouse where all these reparations materials could be displayed.

The President was advised by Secretary of Labor Eleuterio Adevosos today that the incidence of strike in the country was steadily decreasing.

The President asked Adevosos, who was at Malacañang to attend the presentation of credentials of Australian Ambassador Keith C.O. Shann, whether it was true that strikes had increased under the present Administration.

Adevosos denied this and said the only reason that strikers seemed to have increased in number was the wider coverage given to them. Citing figures, Adevosos said the number of strikers in the last four years was 87 in 1953 (the last year of the Liberal administration), 64 in 1954, 43 in 1955, and 21 in the first three months of the current year.

The number was dropping, he added, despite the fact that the number of unions was growing and many more industrial establishments were being set up. He said the improvement in industrial peace was thus more impressive against this background.

Comparing the strike incidence so far this year with that of last year, Adevosos said the first three months of 1955 saw 43 strikes. He said there is always a rash of in the first semester of any year because this is the time when contracts expire and new negotiations have to be undertaken.

Adevosos said that in contrast with well-publicized strikes, hundreds of peaceful agreements between labor and management are being signed yearly but without much fanfare. He said this is the real index to industrial peace.

The President this afternoon formally received Keith Charles Owen Shann as the new Ambassador of Australia in the Philippines at ceremonies held at the Malacañang ceremonial hall.

Ambassador Shann in presenting his credentials said that during his sojourn in the Philippines, he had sought "to find ways of increasing trade, to extend our cooperation under the Colombo Plan to strengthen the ties which bind us through the Manila Treaty."

He added that according to his observations in his travels in the Philippines, he realized "the brightness of the future which faces your young and vital Republic."

In response, President Magsaysay said that the mutual elevation by "our two governments of the category of our diplomatic missions from one of legation to that of embassy underlines the importance we attach to the need for greater economic, social, and political relations between our two peoples, to our mutual concern as neighbor and allies in the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, and to the maintenance of universal peace and security."

Ambassador Shann, who arrived at the Malacañang grounds a little before 4:30 p.m. was given military honors by a contingent of the Presidential Guards Battalion. He was accompanied to Malacañang by Foreign Affairs Protocol Officer Jose Estrada, and James L. Allen, first secretary, and Bryan Hickey, third secretary, of the Australian embassy.

After the ceremonies, the President introduced Ambassador Shann to officials of the Philippine Government, headed by Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia and Acting Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon. Other diplomatic and executive officials were also present.

Afterwards the President and Ambassador Shann exchanged diplomatic toasts.

March 23.—AT a breakfast conference this morning, President Magsaysay told a group of Bicol congressmen and governors that the construction of barrio roads and irrigation systems would help very much in attaining self-sufficiency in rice. The Bicol officials requested the President the early completion of public works projects to their respective provinces.

Present at the breakfast were Reps. Pio Duran and Justino Nuyda of Albay, Felix Fuentebella—and Emilio Tible of Camarines Sur, and Slavador Enciñas and Vicente Peralta of Sorsogon; and Govs. Juan Alberto of Catanduanes and Esmeraldo Eco of Camarines Norte.

The President did not receive any callers this morning. After breakfast, he went over a batch of state papers.

THE President today issued Proclamation No. 278, declaring Saturday, March 31, 1956, a special public holiday.

In another proclamation (No. 277), the President proclaimed Monday, April 9, 1956, as Bataan Day and declared it a special public holiday throughout the Philippines.

In his proclamation the President said that as March 29 (Holy Thursday) and March 30 (Good Friday) are public holidays, March 31 (Saturday), 1956, may be “declared a special public holiday without any prejudice to the public interest.”

In his other proclamation, the President said that April 9 marks the anniversary of the fall of Bataan and has become a “shining symbol of courage and heroism to all freedom-loving peoples of the world.”

He added that Bataan Day “has strengthened the everlasting bonds of friendship and cooperation between the Philippines and the United States.”

In proclaiming Monday, April 9 1956, as Bataan Day the President called upon all public officials and citizens of the Philippines, and invited all American nationals residing in the Philippines to observe the day with one minute silence at 4:30 p.m. on that day and to hold appropriate rites in honor of the heroic defenders of Bataan. This will be the 14th anniversary of the fall of Bataan.

AT a dinner conference in the evening with the congressmen from the tobacco-producing regions, the President re-affirmed his pledge to extend maximum protection to the local tobacco industry.

In the dinner called by the President to discuss the tobacco problem, the history of the development of the tobacco industry was reviewed. It was pointed out that the local tobacco industry developed to its present state of vigor and prosperity mainly owing to the initiative, foresight, and sustained supports and encouragement of the President. This determination of the President to help the tobacco planters was announced as early as two years ago in major speeches to tobacco planters in San Fernando and Agoo, La Union, heart of the tobacco region. The people of the tobacco growing areas, in particular, know and appreciated this fact.

The President assured the northern congressmen that there was no reason to be alarmed about his alleged planning any move or undertaking any measure that will be prejudicial to this industry which he has endeavored so hard to develop.

It was agreed that a technical committee will be created by the President solely to determine whether there is any need to import high grade Virginia tobacco for blending.

The President revealed that the committee is purely technical and will submit the most objective and dispassionate recommendation under the circumstances. The President has given assurance that his action will be guided only and exclusively by the national interest. This assurance, coupled with the President's consistent record as the staunchest champion of the local tobacco industry, augurs nothing else but the continued growth and development of this industry, resulting in turn in the economic well-being of the people in the region we represent.

Present at the dinner conference were Reps. Lucas Paredes of Abra, Paulino Alonzo and Felipe Garduque of Cagayan, Ferdinand Marcos of Ilocos Norte, Floro Crisologo and Ricardo Gacula of Ilocos Sur, Francisco Ortega and Manuel T. Cases of La Union, Samuel Reyes of Isabela, Leonardo Perez of Nueva Vizcaya, Amadeo Perez, Justino Benito, and Jose Parayno of Pangasinan, and Enrique Corpus of Zambales. Also present were ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo, Assistant Press Secretary Guillermo V. Sison, Legislative Secretary Jose Nable, and Legislative Liaison Officer Vicente Logarta.

March 24.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning took up with officials of the Central Bank the financing of his rural development program which calls for the large scale construction of barrio roads, irrigation systems, schools, health centers, and other projects all over the country.

In a three-hour breakfast conference with CB officials headed by Governor Miguel Cuaderno at Malacañang this morning, the President also discussed ways of expanding the program if the Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Financing Administration designed to assist small producers and eventually attain self-sufficiency in essential commodities.

The Chief Executive asked the CB officials to sit down with representatives of the Department of Commerce and Industry and to reassess and revitalize existing rules and regulations on imports and exports under the no-dollar import law with the view of helping small producers without impairing the nation's dollar reserves.

In the course of the conference which lasted from 8 to 11 a.m., extensive discussions were had on the matter of looking for new markets for copra, abaca, and low-grade Virginia leaf tobacco.

Gov. Cuaderno reported that the dollar requirement with thick to start two important industrial projects was now available. One of the projects is the proposed P80-million supplemental hydroelectric plant at Binga, Mountain Province, which together with the Ambuklao plant scheduled to be inaugurated in two months, would electrify rural areas in Central and Northern Luzon. The other is the construction of a second unit of the fertilizer plant in Marcia Cristina Lanao, at a cost of P15 million.

On being informed by Governor Cuaderno that the country now had all the dollars necessary for the purchase of two ramie plants, the President called up by the telephone Jose Panganiban general manager of the National Development Company, and instructed him to send two technical men to Europe in three days to procure the needed machinery. Panganiban said that he would send Dr. Ariston Hemano and Benedicto Dakanay, two NDC technicians.

To improve the quality of textiles manufactured in this country, the President decided to get textile engineers from Spain to supervise the operation of the plants and at the same time train local technicians.

Present at the conference besides Governor Cuaderno were Nicanor Tomas, deputy CB governor; Gregorio Licaros and R. Marino Corpus, chief of the import and export departments, respectively; Dean Vicente Sinco, Monetary Board member; and Prof. Enrique M. Fernando of the CB survey commission.

IN the afternoon, the President was conferred the degree of Doctor of Humanities (honoris causa) by the Adamson University at its 18th annual commencement exercises held at the university campus on San Marcelino, Manila.

Immediately afterwards, the President delivered the commencement address. The President's address lasted from 6:45 p.m. to 6:57 p.m.

In his commencement address, the President foresaw the “tremendous” development of Asia’s resources and the solution of its problems “within years” with the \$20 million nuclear research center the United States will build in the Philippines.

“Here in the Philippines will be gathered and working some of the greatest scientific minds in the world, all dedicated to the task of bringing about unlimited abundance for the benefit of man,” he said.

Speaking of the dawn of the atomic age, The President said that the key to the economic, social, and political problems of the Philippines, Asia, and the world would be found in the “workshops of the sciences.”

He said “a great new chapter in the history of our race” was opened last week when U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles informed him that the U.S.-sponsored center would be established in this country.

The President was conferred the honorary degree “for signal victory over the Communism and for the upliftment of the masses.” The citation was read by Dr. George Lucas Adamson, president of the Adamson University.

Dr. Adamson, and Mr. Alexander A. Adamson, vice-president and registrar, placed the hood on President Magsaysay as he was conferred the honorary degree.

Accompanied by his aide, Maj. Pat Garcia, the President arrived at the Adamson University campus a little before 5 p.m. The President was met by the university officials headed Dr. Adamson. He was given military honors by the Naval ROTC cadets of the university.

The President then joined the academic procession. As he entered the graduation grounds, he was greeted with an applause by the audience.

Among the graduates whom the President personally congratulated was young Wenceslao G. Vinzons, Jr., who received his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry degree and who was awarded honors by the university. Vinzons is the son of the late young leader and congressman Wenceslao Q. Vinzons of Camarines Norte.

The President returned to Malacañang at past 7 p.m.

March 25.—THE President had breakfast with his family and Bulacan Gov. Alejo Santos, who consulted him on public works and other improvements in his province.

After the breakfast, the President retired to his room and worked on pending state papers.

President Magsaysay reiterated this morning to the National Power Corporation that the bulk of the power to become available from the Ambuklao plant should be allocated for the electrification of the rural areas, particularly in Central Luzon, to speed up their economic development.

The President reaffirmed this policy in a telephone conversation with Antonio Fuentes, chief of the NPC power utilization department.

The Chief Executive at the time was conferring with Bulacan Gov. Alejo Santos on various improvement projects in Bulacan and Santos said his constituents were looking forward to the benefits of electrification due shortly from the Ambuklao plant. Santos said there were some fears in his province, however, that the bulk of Ambuklao power may be transmitted to Manila.

The President told Santos to allay those fears and vigorously reiterated that Ambuklao power will be channeled mainly for such rural development aids as irrigation pumps and power-operated rice mills. He said power will be also available for cottage industries.

The President added that the Government will pull down the cost of this power to the lowest possible levels in order that it may be of benefit to the largest number of people.

The President said the Government's desire to hasten rural development through electric power was behind the decisions to construct a twin plant to Ambuklao at Binga, also in the Mountain Province. He said the dollar requirement for this project already has been obtained by Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno during his recent trip to the United States. The President said this twin plant will service the northern provinces under the same government policy of making cheap power available to the farming areas.

The President spoke to Fuentes in the absence of NPC General Manager Filemon M. Zablan, who is currently in India attending an international conference.

March 26.—EARLY this morning, the President saw his two daughters, Teresita and Mila, off to Baguio.

Canceling a long list of scheduled callers, the President later motored to the Nichols Air Base and decided to attend the inauguration of the enlarged Loakan Airport in Baguio this morning. Earlier, he had asked Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia to represent him at the inauguration of the airport.

The President arrived at the airport at 9:30 a.m., but he had to wait for about 30 minutes for Col. Andres Soriano, who was earlier informed that the Chief Executive would leave for Baguio City at 11 a.m.

The President was accompanied by Bernard Anderson, a PAL executive, Press Secretary J.V. Cruz, and Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo and Maj. Jose Estrella, his aides.

The presidential party finally took off from the Nichols Air Base at 10:10 a.m. and landed at the new Loakan Airport an hour later.

The President speaking at the inauguration ceremonies said the lengthening of the Baguio airstrip and its serviceability for larger type of aircraft was "an example of the tangible accomplishments" that had been brought about by Filipino-American friendship.

Citing the difficult engineering problems that were involved in the project, the Chief Executive said the accomplishment proved that "there is nothing impossible if there is unity and there is friendship between our two peoples."

The President stayed in Baguio City for an hour to attend the ceremonies. Others present were Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, Public Works Secretary Florecio Moreno, Sen. Francisco Rodrgio, Speaker Protempore Daniel Z. Romualdez, Civil Aeronautics Administrator Urbano Caldoza, and Baguio City Mayor Alfonso Tabora. American dignitaries at the rites were Counsellor Charles R. Burrows; Maj. Gen. Kenneth McDoughton, who is deputy commander of the FEAF; Brig. Gen. William E. Lee, 13th Airforce chief; and Col. Harry Brenn, local ICA chief.

The President recalled that he had promised the people of Baguio during the 1953 campaign that he would try to improve their airport. He said he made his pledge, firstly, so that four-engined aircraft could land in the summer capital and thus boost Baguio City's tourist trade, and secondly, because he realized the airfield in its previous condition was dangerous.

He said he would have been unable to fulfill this pledge without the assistance given by the United States Government.

The President said that many difficulties were encountered at the beginning of the project and technicalities had threatened to block it from the very beginning. He recalled that many conferences were held between Filipino officials and such American officials as General McDoughton; Gen. Weyland, FEAF chief; General John Sessums, former 13h Airforce chief; Gen. Robert Cannon, former JUSMAG chief; and later on General Lee.

Despite all difficulties and differences which stood in the way of the project, the President said, the Filipino and American groups pushed on the project in a spirit of cooperation and friendship and succeeded in hurdling all obstacles until the program was completed.

The President said nearly P300,000 was contributed by the CAA to the project and the PAL gave P25,000. He added, however, that the largest contribution was given by the United States Air Force in the form of heavy construction equipment and machinery as well as in the training given Filipino personnel to operate them. He further revealed that the entire project had involved moving nearly two-million cubic yards of earth.

The President also said that with the lengthening of the airport, faster and heavier aircraft would now be able to land in Baguio. He said the PAL was negotiating to buy two Viscount airplanes from Britain which would negotiate the distance between Manila and Baguio in 20 minutes flying time.

The President told the gathering the reason he had gone to Baguio was to extend official and personal recognition to all the Filipino and American personnel who had participated in the project, as well as to the Government of the United States, particularly its Air Force. He told the American personnel that while the Philippine Government could give them only tokens of its appreciation on the form of certificates, he hoped they would find ample reward in the realization that they had "helped in the development of air transportation in this country."

The President on board the *Laong Laan*, proved the new uses to which the enlarged airfield can now be put by landing from east to west instead of the reverse approach which had been in use in Baguio since an airport was built in that city. The President's craft was the first plane to land in that manner.

The President left Baguio immediately after the ceremonies at 12:10 p.m., and was back in Manila at 1 p.m.

Upon arriving at Malacañang, the President lunched with the First Lady and then relaxed.

In the afternoon, he went over pending state papers.

March 27.—WISHING to devote his time clearing the backlog of pending state papers before the four days vacation during the Holy Week, the President received very few callers this day.

He talked to Legislative Secretary Jose C. Nable on the progress of administration measures in Congress. Then he received Gov. Dominador Chipeco of Laguna and later Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez.

The President also saw Press Secretary J.V. Cruz and inquired into the report that the Malacañang spokesman drove two newsmen "from an Army car at the Loakan airstrip in Baguio City, who were crowding out Palace newsmen yesterday.

Secretary Cruz dismissed the news report as a "cockeyed account."

Regarding the matter, the Press Secretary later issued the following statement:

"I am making this statement (on yesterday's, March 26, Baguio ceremony) just to straighten out the record.

"I got two Army cars at Loakan airfield for the use of the press in going to Baguio City. Two strangers immediately jumped into one. None of us recognized them as newspapermen and they didn't identify themselves as such. I therefore asked them to alight, which they did.

"In the other car were newsmen. Although two of them were not from the Malacañang beat and had gone to Baguio at the invitation of CAA Administrator Caldoza, they were gladly accommodated in the car. However, when they learned that it was going to the city and not to Camp John Hay, where obviously they planned to go, they asked to be let off and this was done.

“The report published in some papers today on what allegedly happened at Loakan is thus a cockeyed account of what really happened. No newsmen were ‘neglected,’ drive off, or ‘left helpless’.”

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today took steps to further bolster the Government’s program of self-sufficiency in rice. He signed Proclamation No. 279, declaring the last week of April of each year as Rice Festival Week.

The Chief Executive said that the attainment of sufficiency in rice production was one of the major goals of the government. He added that to attain this objective as early as possible, it was necessary to draw the attention of the people to more effective methods of rice production.

The President designated the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources to take charge of, and coordinate, all activities in connection with the celebration of the Rice Festival Week.

IN the afternoon, the President left Malacañang with bundles of state papers he wanted to go over. It was hinted he went to Castillejos, Zambales.

March 28.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today issued Executive Order No. 170, fixing office hours during the summer season.

The order said that for the period from April 2 to June 15, 1956, office hours for government offices are reduced to five conditions hours, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The office hours will be observed in all government departments, bureaus, offices, agencies, and instrumentalities, including the provincial, city, and municipal governments and all corporations owned or controlled by the government. The provisions of this order, however, shall not apply to the offices in the City of Baguio, whether national, provincial, or municipal.

The executive order said that the head of any department, bureau, of office is not obliged to reduce office hours in his office but is allowed to use his discretion “subject to the requirements of the service and provided that the usual volume of work is not diminished by the reduction of office hours.”

The President this noon gave a luncheon in honor of Gen. O.P. Weyland, commanding general of the United States four-star general and his party arrived at Malacañang at 12:15 p.m. Gen. Weyland was accompanied by United States Embassy Charge d’Affaires Charles Burrows, Maj. Gen. Wayne C. Smith, JUSMAG Chief; and Brig. Gen. William Lee, 13th Airforce Chief.

Gen. Weyland and his party were greeted by the President at the Malacañang music room. Others present were Brig. Gen. John R. O’Haara, Col. F.F. Langley, Col. William K. McNown, and Col. James M. Vande Hey, Air attache of the U.S. Embassy.

Before the meeting the President, Gen. Weyland reviews the honor guard, composed of members of the Presidential Guards Battalion under the command of Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo, senior military aide to the President. The President conversed with Gen. Weyland for about 15 minutes before going to the luncheon.

The guest list for the luncheon follows: Gen. O.P. Weyland, Minister Charles Burrows, Secretary Eulogio Balao, Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez, Rep. Numeriano U. Babao, Press Secretary J.V. Cruz; Maj. Gen. K.P. McNaughton, and Lt. Col. Thompson, aide to Gen Weyland; Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Navy Commodore Jose Francisco, Air Force Brig. Gen. Pelagio Cruz, Maj. Gen. Wayne Smith, Col. William K. McNown, Rear Admiral Wendell Switzer, Brig. Gen. William Lee, Brig. Gen. John O’Hara, Col. F.F. Langley, Col. Kermit Stevens, Col. K.T. Barthlemess, Col. James M. Vande Hey, U.S. Embassy Air attache, and Col. Emilio Borromeo, presidential aide.

After the luncheon, the President received Agriculture Undersecretary Jaime Ferrer and Acting NARRA General Manager Raul Beloso. He told them that he had approved the release of 167,000 hectares of government land in Bukidnon for NARRA.

The President made the announcement in a conference with these two officials. He reiterated that the Government, aside from implementing the policy of breaking up landed estates prescribed in the Land Reform Act, was also prosecuting the complementary program of opening up public lands for settlement.

The President re-emphasized that the government's drive to bring economic opportunities to those in the rural areas will be prosecuted on two fronts. The first will be through implementation of the Land Reform Act, and the Second, through the opening up of public lands, especially in fertile areas like Mindanao.

The President also conferred with Servillano Aquino, member of the Gold Subsidy Board, with Whom he took up several proposals to aid the base metals industry. No. details will be released until these proposals have been studied and endorsed by the appropriate government agencies.

March 29.—THE President this morning received De Witt Sage ICA Executive director who is on an observation tour in the Far East. Sage was accompanied to Malacañang by Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez and Col. Harry Brenn.

Discussed extensively during the call were the Philippine Government's program supported by the ICA, with emphasis on road-building, irrigation projects, and school house construction.

In the course of the discussion, the Chief Executive was informed by Sage that early next month a team of U.S. nuclear specialists will come to study all aspects, particularly the medical and agricultural of the nuclear and research center which will be established here.

The next caller was Erling Foss, a Danish whiter, who came to gather materials for his forthcoming articles on Philippine affairs, which will be published in leading newspapers of Denmark. Foss said that the people of Denmark were aware of the works of President Magsaysay particularly in his success in wiping out the active armed resistance of the Huks. Foss was accompanied by PCAC Chairman Francisco San Juan.

After receiving both callers, the President worked on state papers.

March 30.—REGULAR Malacañang visitors observed Good Friday this day by staying away from the Palace and giving the Chief Executive a good day's rest.

A Malacañang spokesman said the President did not receive any caller as none went to the Palace to see him.

The President and the First Lady motored out of the Palace at 10 o'clock, accompanied by Maj. Jose Estrella, an aide. The First Couple visited their relatives in Manila and spent a few hours with them.

Shortly after lunch, the President and Mrs. Magsaysay returned to the Palace.

After having lunch together in the Palace, the President again left with his aide. The Palace spokesman did not know where President Magsaysay went.

It was speculated the President may have either boarded his yacht, the *Santa Maria*, or flown to Castillejos, Zambales, where he had planned to spend the Holy Week vacation.

The President had previously planned to board his yacht and go fishing in the Manila Bay and perhaps reach Poro Point, where he expected to rest until Sunday.

March 31.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today ordered the Civil Aeronautics Administration to undertake immediately the contraction of the airport terminal and eliminate “unnecessary frills and trimmings” from the design in order to bring down the construction cost to P2 million, the sum available for this purpose.

The President also said he would inquire (1) why his original directive to simplify the terminal design had not been followed, and (2) why the construction was suspended without his knowledge after he had given it the green light.

“I want an accounting made on these points,” he said.

The President recalled he had ordered the first time he saw the terminal plans that they be simplified and all unnecessary and expensive trimmings eliminated. He said this order obviously had not been followed.

The Chief Executive further recalled that he had authorized that the construction be started upon being assured that the design had been simplified. Despite this authorization, however, construction has been suspended without his knowledge.

The President said it was “unbelievable” that the government was unable to construct as adequate and satisfactory airport terminal for the sum of P2 million. He said this amount should be able to build a “decent and adequate terminal,” especially considering that the initial construction would make allowance for further expansion and improvements.

“But of course,” the Chief Executive added, “if you are going to throw in a swimming pool, theater, hotel, and other trimmings, even P10 million may not do.” He said these extras were not at all essential for an adequate terminal.

The President, in a telephone conversation with a representative of CAA Administrator Urbano Caldoza, who was in Baguio, stressed the urgency of starting work on the airport immediately to keep up with the increasing volume of airplane traffic and dispel the unfavorable first impression of the Philippines created by the present inadequate terminal and facilities.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay again sent another quiet day working on state papers. He received no callers. He conferred in the morning with Press Secretary J.V. Cruz and directed him to issue a statement expressing his opposition to any move to extend the presidential term to a maximum period of 12 years.

The President left Malacañang for a brief drive around the city shortly before noon and returned at about 1 p.m. when he had lunch with Mrs. Magsaysay.

In the afternoon he resumed work on pending papers after another brief meeting with his press secretary.

IN the evening, the President said he would ask Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia to submit to him a “progress report” on the status of pending Philippine issues with the United States.

The President said he wanted the people to be fully informed of the actions taken by the Administration to protect and defend Philippine interests whenever these were in the right in differences with the U.S. Government.

The Chief Executive said an example of how effectively the Administration has asserted Philippine rights was the case of Olongapo, where reforms have been put into effect since the Philippine Government protested against some conditions in that reservation.

The President said very few new of these reforms and the role played by the Administration to bring them about because the negotiations which led to their adoption were conducted quietly through normal diplomatic channels between Ambassador Felino Nero for the Philippines and the proper U.S. authorities.

He added however, that the fact the negotiations were carried on quietly did not prevent the Philippine Government from obtaining satisfactory reforms for the U.S. authorities.

Meantime, Press Secretary J.V. Cruz made a clear “in fairness to the truth, of not in fairness to President Magsaysay and the Administration,” that the government had been initiating action to protect the Philippine side in difference with the United States “as soon as such issues cropped up and not just now.”

The Malacañang spokesman took exception to a report tending to give the impression that the government had taken action on pending Philippine-U.S. issues only since what the newspapers have describe as an “outburst of nationalism.”

“This just isn’t so,” Cruz said. “Ambassador Romulo was instructed to express our protest against the projected anti-Filipino discrimination in the matter of wage scales in Guam and to make representations to avert it as soon as this discrimination became a possibility. This was a month or so ago.

“As everyone knows, the Administration has been protecting Philippine sugar interests in the United States whenever they imperiled. And it is also a matter of record that it was President Magsaysay who ordered an investigation into the Santamaria incident in Tarlac as soon as he learned of it.”

The Press Secretary said that while Malacañang was not interested in who got the credit for these things provided they got done, it was interested in keeping the record straight.

Cruz said these cases were embraced by the same statement made by Vice-President Garcia to the effect that “this Administration in all proper instances has firmly and vigorously asserted the rights and protected the interests of our people, through the normal processes for the settlement of disputes between the two governments set forth in our various mutual agreements.”

“Of course, in accordance with diplomatic procedures we haven’t been talking much about these things,” Cruz said. “But that doesn’t mean they weren’t being done.”

Cruz denied he had referred to any person as “so-called nationalists” or had accused them of “attempting to build heroes at the expense of President Magsaysay.” He said he had never made those remarks.

Source: Supreme Court Library

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Official Week in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(3), cxiii-clvi.

President's Month in Review: April, 1956

President's Month in Review: May, 1956

Official Month in Review: June 1956

June 1.—PRESIDENT and Mrs. Magsaysay had breakfast this morning with General Electric (GE) officials. Present at the breakfast were William R. Herod, president of GE International; Mrs. Herod; W. A. Powers; Johnny Schlobohm; MRR General Manager Salvador T. Villa, Andres O. Hizon, MRR board chairman; Juan Concon, acting administrator of the Office of Economic Coordination; and James Boots, manager of the GE office in Manila.

DISTURBED by reports of irregularities and inefficiency in the National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration, the President decided to make a surprise visit to the NARRA office in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Before going to the NARRA, the President received Ralph A. Hart, president of Colgate Palmolive International; Edward A. Spicka, vice-president; and James E. Stevenson, general manager of the Manila branch of the company; and A. T. Carraseo, Jr.

President Magsaysay directed NARRA General Manager Raoul Beloso to “get rid of corrupt officials in NARRA resettlement projects.” After interviewing NARRA officials, the President also:

- (1) Directed Beloso to send circulars to all NARRA settlers to forward their complaints directly to the Chief Executive or to the NARRA general manager;
- (2) Said that Bureau of Lands inspectors who certify that a piece of public land is without settlers when in fact there are settlers and improvements on the land like houses and fruit trees, should be prosecuted;
- (3) Ordered NARRA officials to look into the cases where settlers were being deprived of their lands by private claimants through legal and illegal means; and
- (4) Discussed with Beloso the possibility of placing Army transmitting stations in resettlement projects so that “all the settlers can send their gripes to me against projects officials without fear.”

The Chief Executive told Beloso of reports that there were anomalies in the distribution of supplies to settlers and that a NARRA resettlement superintendent was censoring letters of settlers. “We have no place for crooks in this Administration,” the President said.

Inquiring into the condition of settlers in all NARRA resettlement projects from Isabela to Mindanao, the President instructed Manager Beloso to hire more doctors and nurses for them.

Aside from Beloso, the President also talked to Alberto Chavez, superintendent of the NARRA settlement in Maramag, Bukidnon; Tomas Daradar, superintendent of the project in Mallig, Isabela; and Mrs. Carrie del Castillo, wife of a settler in Maramag, who brought her five-year old son, James, to Manila for treatment of a broken arm.

The President, accompanied by his aide, Maj. Pat Garcia, arrived at the NARRA office at 10:30 a.m. From the NARRA, the Chief Executive proceeded to the nearby National Development Company with NDC General Manager Jose Panganiban.

At the NDC, the President inspected the home weaving industry department where he saw several women busy making sweaters and other garments with weaving machines. The President expressed satisfaction with their work. He congratulated Panganiban, who said that the Central Bank had already banned the importation of sweaters because locally manufactured sweaters were sufficient.

Leaving the NDC at about 11:30 a.m., the President went to the NARIC where he checked on a news report that there was rotten rice in a NARIC bodega in Cabanatuan City. NARIC Manager Jacinto Gavino and Felix Gonzales, also of the NARIC, told the President that the report was not true.

The NARIC officials said that there was no such rotten rice nor palay in a NARIC bodega in Cabanatuan City or anywhere else. They told the President that they were inviting newspapermen to tour NARIC bodegas and see for themselves the stored rice.

IN the afternoon, the President sent Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon to represent him at the launching of this year's Community Chest fund drive held at the Palace social hall.

In a brief speech read by Secretary de Leon, the Chief Executive said that the Community Chest "is a community welfare program in action."

He said that he "fully realize that this afternoon I am launching the united cause of 18 affiliate Red Feather agencies that are rendering invaluable services to the community." (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, p. 3010, for the full text of the speech.)

June 2.—AT A BREAKFAST conference at Malacañang this morning, the President and labor leaders agreed to wait for the decision of the Supreme Court, where two or three cases raising the legitimacy of pickets, are pending. The labor leaders protested against measures which they considered anti-labor.

Among others, the labor leaders protested against (1) the arrest of strikers, (2) the courts' alleged indiscriminate issuance of ex-party injunctions to strikers, and (3) the opinion of Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason on pickets.

The Chief Executive also received from labor leaders a resolution which requested the amendment of the Magna Charta of Labor. The amendments requested were the limitation of powers of the courts on the issuance of injunctions to strikers and to permit strikers to converse with scabs.

The Chief Executive promised the labor leaders that he would take up these questions with congressional leaders at a scheduled breakfast conference on Wednesday, June 6.

Elaborating on Secretary Tuason's opinion, the labor leaders alleged that this opinion was based on a U. S. Supreme Court decision on a labor case in 1934. The Chief Executive told the labor leaders that he could not act on this question until the Supreme Court handed down its decision.

The President cautioned the leaders when they sounded him out of their plans to stage a seven-day nationwide strike. The President said that this act might prove prejudicial to the cause of labor.

Labor leaders present during the breakfast were Jose J. Hernandez, PTUC; Cipriano Cid, PAFLU; Vicente Rafael, PLUM; Eulogio Lerum, NLU; Cipriano Malonzo and Ilde Remolosa, FL; Roberto Oca and C. Espino, PTWO; Angel Daza, CLU; Johnny Tan, FFW; and Ignacio Lacsina, NATU.

Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevosio and Malacañang legal assistant, Prof. Enrique Fernando, were also present at breakfast which lasted from 8 to 9 a.m.

The President then addressed a large group of laborers who marched to Malacañang at about 10:30 a.m. and reiterated to them that his administration was pledged to the cause of labor.

The President told the laborers what he had assured labor leaders with whom he had a breakfast conference earlier. "I understand your problems because I came from your ranks," the President said.

The Chief Executive said that his administration would study all the complaints and problems of labor and offer necessary remedies. He spoke extemporaneously in Tagalog for about five minutes before the placard-bearing laborers.

Touching on the pending labor cases in the Supreme Court, the President exhorted the laborers to be patient. He assured that labor would be given justice. He also said that he would discuss with Congress leaders the defects, if any of the labor law with the end in view of amending the law if necessary.

The Chief Executive reiterated his pledge to help labor within the limits of law. "My administration is still and will ever be pledged to help your cause," the President said.

He also said that there was no cause for undue alarm because the Magna Charta of Labor still stood as a monument to the progress of labor and it could survive temporary blows.

The huge crowd of laborers cheered the President as he repeated his pledge to help the cause of labor.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning was informed by the American atomic survey team that they had selected a 90-hectare area of the University of the Philippines in Quezon City as the site for the atomic research center to be put up here.

Dr. Marvin Fox, leader of the atomic survey team, told the President that the atomic research center would become a reality in about a year. The President approved the recommended site.

Dr. Fox emphasized to the President that the nuclear reactor to be established would be safe. He said he wanted to clarify rumors to the contrary to allay any public misapprehension.

The President was informed that one of the major uses of the center would be the application of atomic energy techniques to tropical diseases. Dr. Victor Bond, the medical representative of the team, explained the operation of the techniques to the President, who showed keen interest.

The Chief Executive was briefed on the medical, economic, industrial, agricultural, and research aspects of the nuclear center. He was also given a fill-in on the types of nuclear machines to be installed, of the basic installations like buildings and laboratories, and of the training of long-range programming for the center.

The atomic survey team from Brookhaven National Laboratory called on the President with the members of the Philippine Interdepartmental Committee on Atomic Energy. The two bodies had conferred on the atomic research center for the past few days.

Dr. Fox presented to the President two architects of the Ralph M. Parsons Co. of Los Angeles, California. The company will draft plans and construct the buildings for the center. The architects were Edson C. Lee and Lyle Rosenberg.

The team also told the President that a phylotron or a green house worth about \$1.5 million would be one of the buildings of the center. In the huge phylotron, natural conditions could be simulated. Another thing to be constructed in the center will be a small nuclear power plant for experiments.

The atomic survey team members expressed appreciation for the cooperation given by the interdepartmental committee on atomic energy and by the various other agencies and entities with whom the team had been in close contact during the past ten days.

Through Dr. Fox, the team presented to the President an advance set of volumes of the report on the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy held last summer. Seven volumes of a set of sixteen were actually presented. The remainder of the set will be presented to the Philippine Government by the Brookhaven team when printed.

The President said that he wished to see a truly regional nuclear research center established here. The team is scheduled to leave for Japan on the last leg of its survey, tomorrow.

Accompanied by U. S. Embassy Charge d'Affaires Charles Burrows and local ICA Chief Harry Brenn, the atomic survey team members who briefed the President on their findings were Dr. Fox, Dr. Bond, Dr. Harold Tukey, Dr. P. C. Vanderlage, Dr. Harold Smith, John Hagerton, Solomon Chafkin, Dr. Vandebush, William Alvarez, and Ralph Strom.

The members of the Philippine Interdepartmental Committee on Atomic Energy who were with the survey team were Caesar Lanuza of the NEC, chairman; Navy Comdr. Marcelino Calinawan, Jr., vice-chairman; Health Secretary Paulino Garcia, Dr. Juan Sta. Cruz, Dr. Ador Dionisio, Dean Gregorio Zara, Dr. Leopoldo Salazar, Dr. Octavio Maloles, Dr. Amando Clemente, Dean Crisostomo Ortigas, Dr. Casimiro del Rosario, Alfredo Eugenia, and Col. Florencio Medina.

IN the afternoon, the President left the Palace, accompanied by his aide, Maj. Pat Garcia. He returned to Malacañang in the evening.

June 3.—BEFORE leaving for La Union this morning, the President stood as sponsor in the baptism of Victor Datur, son of Mayor and Mrs. Herbert Datur of Lucban, Quezon, and in the confirmation of Geronimo Cueto, son of Councilor and Mrs. A. Cueto of Alitagtag, Batangas. The rites were held at the San Miguel Pro-Cathedral.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay entrained with a dozen politicians, public officials, and newsmen this morning for Agoo, La Union, to inaugurate the new tobacco redrying plant in that town.

The President boarded the new diesel-electric train of the Manila Railroad Company at 10:10 a.m. He was accompanied on the presidential coach by Sen. Cipriano Primicias; Reps. Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur, Manuel Cases of La Union, Jose J. Roy of Tarlac, and Ferdinand Marcos and Gov. Antonio Raquiza of Ilocos Norte; Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno, Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, and Press Secretary J. V. Cruz; Andres O. Hizon and Mrs. Belen Enrile-Gutierrez of the National Economic Council; MRR General Manager Salvador Villa; NAMARCO General Manager Manuel J. Gonzalez; Chairman-General Manager Manuel Turingan of the Philippine Tobacco Corporation; Lieut. General Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Manuel Cabal, Constabulary chief; and Malacañang newsmen and Jose Aspiras, National Press Club president.

The presidential train arrived at Agoo at 1:50 p.m. and the President proceeded immediately to the tobacco redrying plant for the ceremonies.

At Agoo, the President was met by provincial officials, headed by Sen. Alejo Mabanag, Govs. Bernardo Gapuz of La Union and Conrado Estrella of Pangasinan, Reps. Manuel T. Cases and Francisco Ortega of La Union, Manager Ernesto Jimenez of the Central Cooperative Exchange, Baguio City Mayor Alfonso Tabora, BIR Collector Silverio Blaquera, and Agoo Mayor Constantino Berceles.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this afternoon:

- (1) Told tobacco farmers that he favored a higher price support for better quality Virginia tobacco, and no price support for inferior quality tobacco but allowing the barter of the poor kind with products of other countries;
- (2) Ordered the ACCFA to investigate a charge that the FACOMAs refused to buy the poor kind of Virginia tobacco leaf but that Chinese merchants bought the stuff; and
- (3) Urged the planting of coffee and cotton with the assurance of financial assistance from the government.

President Magsaysay made these statements as he addressed a large gathering of tobacco planters at the inauguration of the P4-million tobacco redrying plants in Agoo, La Union, this afternoon.

After cutting the ceremonial ribbon and inspecting the cavernous redrying bodegas, the President motored to barrio Masalip, Tubao, where he broke ground for the construction of the P4-million Masalip irrigation system.

Speaking extemporaneously on an improvised platform before one of the redrying bodegas, President Magsaysay urged thousands of tobacco farmers that they should improve the quality of the Virginia tobacco they were raising so that they could reap more profits.

The President stressed: "Raise better quality tobacco so that we will have enough good tobacco leaves here; hence, we will not need to import foreign tobacco leaves."

The Chief Executive added that if the local Virginia tobacco was improved, a higher price support could be given as an incentive. He added that he favored a bill now in the Senate offering this higher price support for better quality tobacco leaves.

He explained that he also favored non-price support for inferior leaves but with the opportunity to barter them. These, he said, were the provisions of a bill intended to improve further the lot of tobacco farmers.

This announcement was applauded by an enthusiastic audience.

In the course of his speech the President was informed by Isabelo Ocampo, ousted president and manager of the Bacnotan FACOMA that the ACCFA had refused to purchase the tobacco leaves raised by his fellow members in the FACOMA. However, Ocampo added, Chinese merchants bought the products.

Ocampo then showed the President a sample of the tobacco leaves which had been refused. The President remarked that the tobacco was of poor quality and that it was not the policy of the ACCFA to buy such poor grade tobacco. However, the President told Ocampo that he would order immediately the investigation of the charge and that justice will be given to the Bacnotan FACOMA members.

The President told the tobacco farmers that it would be wise for them if they branched out to the planting of coffee and cotton. He said that the Government, through its financial institutions, would give funds to help them in the planting of these products. He expressed the fear that there might be over-production of tobacco and that, therefore, it would be wise to start planting other essential products.

Other speakers who preceded the President were La Union Gov. Gapuz, Sen. Primicias, Gov. Raquiza of Ilocos Norte, and Reps. Ortega, Roy, Crisologo, Marcos, and Cases.

Reps. Ortega and Crisologo openly advocated the re-election of President Magsaysay because of what he has done in uplifting the living conditions of the common people. This was met by thunderous approval by the crowd.

The Liberal Party congressmen who spoke said that although they belonged to another party, yet they fully and heartily cooperated with the Nacionalistas and with all the producers of tobacco in the improvement of the tobacco industry.

After delivering his speech at 3:20 p.m., the President cut the ceremonial ribbon, formally opening the tobacco redrying plant, and then made a tour of the big compound.

From the compound, the President motored to barrio Masalip, in Tubao, La Union, where he broke the ground for the construction of the P4-million Masalip irrigation project. After an invocation by Fr. Jose Dehara, parish priest of Tubao, the President pressed a lever on an improvised platform which detonated a big portion of ground several hundred feet away, signalling the start of the construction.

The President was informed that with the completion of the irrigation project the towns of Tubao, Aringay, Agoo, and Santo Tomas, La Union, with an area of 4,000 hectares and a population of 6,000 families would be benefited. It was estimated that this would mean an annual increase in the production of rice by about 60,000 cavanos, valued at P600,000.

The President then returned to Agoo, La Union, where he boarded the presidential train back to Manila.

The Presidential train pulled out of Agoo at past 5 p.m., arriving at Manila about 9 p.m.

The President and his party ate their lunch and dinner aboard the train. The President expressed great satisfaction with the pleasant trip which he had aboard the new air-conditioned diesel-engine trains of the MRR Company.

June 4.—THE President this morning, directed the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority to put up immediately artesian wells in Novaliches, where Manila squatters who are being ejected will be transferred.

The President's directive to the NAWASA was issued during the Chief Executive's breakfast conference with Reps. Angel Castaño, Joaquin Roces, Arturo Tolentino, and Augusto Francisco of Manila.

Also present at the breakfast were Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma and Sen. Fernando Lopez. Senator Lopez is leaving for the United States tomorrow evening to accompany his wife, who is entering a hospital for a check-up.

After the breakfast, the President received Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija, officials who requested aid for their public works projects. The municipal officials were headed by Benedicto Ramos and accompanied by Rep. Jose Corpuz and Gov. Amado Aleta.

Maj. Gen. Joseph H. Harper, new JUSMAG chief, paid a courtesy call on the President. Gen. Harper had just arrived from the United States. He was accompanied to Malacañang by U. S. Embassy Charge d'Affaires Charles Burrows and Col. John Torey of the JUSMAG.

Two American labor experts of the ICA also paid a courtesy call on the President. They were accompanied by Secretary of Labor Eleuterio Adevosio. The labor experts were John Meskiman, director of labor affairs of ICA in Washington, D. C.; and Rudolph Merginot, area labor director for the Far East. Carlos Beloso of the Department of Labor was also with the group.

City Mayor Norberto Amoranto and Police Chief Vicente Novales of Quezon City accompanied members of the Women's Club of Quirino District Projects 2, 3, and 4 who requested financial aid for the improvement of the Labor Hospital and also for the installation of electric lights and the construction of roads at Bago-Bantay. The President sent a note to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to set aside financial aid for the Labor Hospital and assured the delegation that he would order the MERALCO to install electric lighting facilities in Bago-Bantay. He also instructed the Department of Public Works and Communications to look into the roads at Bago-Bantay.

A group of Negritos from Porac, Pampanga, also called on the President and requested aid for school houses and work animals. The Negritos were being resettled by an American missionary, Rev. Ernest P. Sjoberg, who accompanied them to Malacañang. The Negritos presented the President with home-made spears, daggers, and bows and arrows.

Other callers of the President were Sen. Lorenzo Sumulong and Ricardo Labez.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today, cracked down on several erring government officials and employees, including the entire management of the NARRA resettlement project in Wao, Lanao, a justice of the peace of Negros Occidental, and the chief of the fire department of Cabanatuan City. At the same time, the President served notice to others that "this Administration has no need for crooked officials and employees."

After receiving evidence and reports, the President:

(1) Ordered the suspension of all the officials and employees of the NARRA resettlement project in Wao, Lanao, numbering about 20 persons, who were accused by several settlers of stealing rations intended for the settlers and of censoring letters and radiograms;

(2) Removed Jesus Torrecarion from office as justice of the peace of Murcia, Negros Occidental, for having been found guilty of assault upon a judge of the court of first instance;

(3) Removed Exequiel Trinidad as chief of the fire department of Cabanatuan City after finding him guilty of partisan political activity in violation of the Constitution and of the Civil Service Law;

(4) Directed Chairman Filomeno Kintanar of the Board of Liquidators to get a complete inventory of all surplus materials in government offices in order to prevent pilferage; and

(5) Instructed the PC chief, Brig. Gen. Manuel Cabal, to investigate some persons in Nueva Ecija, including a municipal official, who were reportedly using the President's name to collect money from tenants on the promise that court decision will be handed down in their (tenants) favor. The Chief Executive also ordered the arrest of the guilty parties.

The President directed the suspension of all the officials and employees of the NARRA resettlement project in Wao, "from the project superintendent down," after talking to five settlers who got out of Wao and are now in Mandaluyong, Rizal. They charged "we were cheated of our rations by the management, our letters were censored, and we could not send radiograms without submitting them first to the project superintendent."

The settlers Gregorio Abasta, Anita Reyes, Amado Reyes, Mariano Reyes, and Arturo Angeles, presented to the President invoices showing that they were given only five gantas of rice a week out of their weekly rations of 15 gantas each. They explained that instead of being given 15 gantas, they were given only five; and the following week, when they were supposed to receive the regular 15 gantas, plus the balance of 10 gantas, they were given only 10 gantas.

The President expressed anger and immediately ordered the suspension of the entire management of the Wao resettlement project. He instructed that they be changed with a new set of personnel pending investigation of the charges. He said an investigator will be named immediately.

NARRA General Manager Raoul Beloso carried out the President's order immediately after receiving it from Assistant Executive Secretary Enrique C. Quema. Present superintendent of the Wao project is Buzran Kalaw. The President recalled he had been receiving many reports against him not only from settlers but also from people who had come from Wao.

THE Chief Executive also removed Jesus Torrecarion from office as justice of the peace of Murcia, Negros Occidental, by virtue of Administrative Order No. 201 and upon the recommendation of Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason and the district judge who heard both the criminal and the administrative cases against the justice of the peace.

Torrecarion was found guilty of striking Judge Jose Teodoro, Sr., of the court of first instance of Negros Occidental in the face with his fist, wounding the latter in the mouth. Torrecarion was sentenced to imprisonment of from one year, eight months, and one day, as minimum, to six years, as maximum; to pay a fine of P1,000; to indemnify Judge Teodoro in the sum of P1,000 as actual damages, P5,000 as moral damages and P5,000 as exemplary damages with subsidiary imprisonment in case of insolvency. The case was appealed to the Court of Appeals by Torrecarion.

In the administrative and criminal investigation against Torrecarion, the evidence showed that during a dinner-dance at the University Club in Bacolod City on January 5, 1954, Torrecarion struck Judge Teodoro in the face with his fist, wounding him in the mouth. The reason behind the assault was a grudge nursed by Torrecarion against Judge Teodoro, who had previously held the former in contempt for which Torrecarion spent some days in jail "much to his chagrin and humiliation."

"Torrecarion's conduct renders him totally unfit for a judicial office or any other public office," the President said.

EXEQUIEL Trinidad, who was removed by the President, as chief of the fire department of Cabanatuan City, was found guilty of partisan political activity. The case was investigated by the acting provincial fiscal of Nueva Ecija.

Trinidad, who was a public service official falling under Civil Service Law, was found guilty of actively participating in politics and campaigning for party candidates by acting as toastmaster.

The President, through Administrative Order No. 202, said: "I therefore find the respondent (Trinidad) guilty of engaging directly in partisan political activity which is forbidden by the Constitution and existing laws and regulations (Article XII, section 2, Constitution; section 687, Revised Administrative Code; and Civil Service Rule XIII) and punishable with removal or dismissal from the service."

The Chief Executive further added: "In view of the positive legal mandate against partisan political activity by public officials and employees in general, because of the baneful influence of politics on the public service, I am constrained to take drastic action against the respondent (Trinidad)."

IN ordering Chairman Kintanar of the Board of Liquidators to get a complete inventory of all surplus materials in government offices, the President gave the warning that there might be pilferage if the surplus materials were not fully and completely noted down. He also warned Kintanar that appraisers of the board, who appraise every surplus materials for sale, might be in connivance with proposed buyers.

Kintanar, together with Board Member Eladio E. Enriquez, Board Secretary Juan Francisco, and Antenor Parazo, called on the President and requested authorization to sell some equipment and machinery directly to small farmers to be paid in installments. The President approved the request.

GEN. Cabal was told by the President to investigate some persons in Nueva Ecija, including a municipal official, who were reportedly using the President's name in collecting money from tenants. The Chief Executive received the report from Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija, officials and from George Musser, who possessed documents containing the names of the persons and their activities.

The President immediately sent the papers to Gen. Cabal. The persons using the name of the President to collect money from tenants were reported operating in Cuyapo and neighboring towns of Nueva Ecija. A municipal official was reportedly one of them. They collected money from the tenants on the pretext that, with the help of the President, the court's decision on their cases will be handed down in their (tenants) favor.

THE President this morning, issued the following statement upon learning of the death of Justice Fernando Jugo of the Supreme Court;

"I mourn the death of Justice Jugo. He served our people steadfastly and honestly. His exemplary life both in private and in public has earned for him the love and respect of all those who have known him. I join the nation in mourning the death of a distinguished and highly respected citizen and an eminent jurist who has contributed his wisdom to the enrichment of our jurisprudence."

June 5.—GUEST of the President at breakfast this morning was J. M. Craford, president of the Philippine Packing Corporation, who arrived recently from the United States. He was accompanied to Malacañang by Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez.

After the breakfast, the President received callers, most of whom were members of provincial delegations, accompanied by their respective congressmen, governors, and mayors. The President received callers up to 1 p.m.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay told National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority officials that he would not allow any injustice in the government service. The President was prompted by reports that there was discrimination in the promotions of NAWASA officials and employees.

All the members of the NAWASA board, including General Manager Susano R. Negado, called on the President and discussed with him the provisions of the bill amending certain provisions of the law creating NAWASA which had been passed in the recent third regular session of the Third Congress.

The members of the board, headed by Chairman Wenceslao Pascual and General Manager Negado, brought their problems to the President. The President told the NAWASA officials to thresh out their problems and see him again. The board, composed of Pascual, former Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa, H. R. Reyes, and C. Santiago, complained against some actions of General Manager Negado, who also expressed disagreement with some decisions of the board.

THE President also received the members of the board of directors of National Marketing Corporation, including General Manager Manuel J. Gonzalez, who complained that the amount of P1 million a year, which the law authorizes for the operation of the NAMARCO, was not enough. They sought the help of the President in seeking a remedy for the situation.

The NAMARCO officials told the President that public service demands expenditure of over P1 million a year in order not to dispense with essential services. They further informed the President that about 16,000 people depended on the NAMARCO for survival.

The President advised NAMARCO officials that he would study the several measures submitted to him to remedy the situation. The NAMARCO officials who saw the President were Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, chairman of the board of directors; Members German P. Neri, Jose Castillo, Hermogenes Dimaguiba, and Salvador Balani; General Manager Manuel J. Gonzalez; Corporate Secretary Antonio Zacarias; and Ramon Sytangco.

ANOTHER group of government officials received by the President were the members of the Social Security Commission. The commission members and Social Security Administrator Manuel Hizon discussed with the Chief Executive the amendments to the Social Security law. They informed the President that when the amendments had been drafted by them, all the big private business companies had been present.

The President told the commission members that he would meet with them again after he finished studying the amendments. He told the Social Security Commission officials that he would certify to Congress during the special session the amendments to the Social Security law if they were all right.

Aside from Administrator Hizon, the members of the Social Security Commission who called on the President were Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevos, chairman; Health Secretary Paulino Garcia, Social Welfare Administrator Amparo P. Villamor, Teofilo Reyes, Rafael de la Peña, Mariano G. Bustos, and GSIS General Manager Rodolfo P. Andal.

Among the provincial delegation which called and requested aid for their various public works projects, were the Sorsogon municipal officials, accompanied by Rep. Vicente Peralta; Bataan residents with Rep. Jose Nuguid; Davao City councilors and Davao municipal officials, led by Gov. Alejandro Almendras; Nueva Ecija municipal officials and farmers, accompanied by Rep. Celestino Juan, Gov. Amado Aleta, and Mayors Nicetas Viezca of San Antonio and Virgilio Calica of Guimba; Quezon delegations, headed by Reps. Manuel Enverga and Leon Guinto, Jr., and Pampanga farmers from Arayat, accompanied by Rep. Emilio Cortez.

Rep. Leonardo Perez of Nueva Vizcaya accompanied a large group of people from the barrios of Salvacion, La Paz, and Bannawag in the town of Diffon, who complained that four persons who had been granted land patents by the Bureau of Lands, threatened to eject them. They told the Chief Executive that the Bureau of Lands inspectors who had looked into the subject areas in the barrios did not submit correct reports to the director of lands.

The President directed Lands Director Zoilo Castrillo to investigate the case and dismiss the guilty parties, if any. Some members of the delegation were from barrio San Jose of Santiago, Isabela, who also complained of the same case in their barrio.

Another visitor of the President was Mrs. Robert McCormick, widow of the publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*. Mrs. McCormick talked with the President for about five minutes. She was accompanied by Lady Vera Broughton, a close friend of hers, and Mrs. Carmen Aguinaldo-Melecio, widow of the late Ambassador Melencio.

The Chief Executive inducted Fernando C. Montes as city engineer of Cavite City. The new Cavite City engineer was accompanied by former Sen. Justiniano S. Montano.

Rep. Diosdado Macapagal of Pampanga also called on the President and expressed his gratitude for the successful treatment of his son Arturo, who had suffered head injury due to an accident. Arturo, who was already up and about, was with his father. Rep. Macapagal's son had been airlifted from Lanao to Manila on orders of the President and was successfully treated at the V. Lima General Hospital.

Other callers of the President included Sen. Quintin Paredes, Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, Reps. Pedro Lopez, Maximino Noel, Miguel Cuenco, and Manuel Zosa of Cebu, Ricardo Ladrido and Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo, Felix Fuentebella of Camarines Sur, Gaudencio Abordo of Palawan, Panfilo Manguera of Marinduque, Tobias Fornier of Antique, and Alberto Ubay of Zamboanga del Norte.

June 6.—FEELING a little indisposed this morning, the President cancelled his appointments with callers and directed that even newspapermen and Malacañang officials should not be allowed to enter the Palace. Only Cabinet members were allowed to get into the Palace for the regular Cabinet meeting.

Informed that Susano R. Negado, manager of the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority, wanted to see him, the President said he did not want to see him.

However, the President received Raoul Beloso, manager of the National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration, who came to explain the mess in the NARRA.

The President told Beloso to stop opening new settlement sites unless the NARRA could provide artesian wells and roads and prepare the sites very well so that there would be no disputes with regard to the land claims.

The Chief Executive told Beloso to continue clearing the NARRA offices of undesirable elements in order to insure the success of the NARRA projects. He told Beloso to take the members of the NARRA board of directors to the trouble areas so that they could study for themselves the problems of the settlers at first hand and offer effective solutions.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay at the Cabinet meeting today ordered that all pending investigations being conducted by the Government in all its instrumentalities be terminated within the quickest possible time but not beyond one month hence so that the guilty could be punished and the innocent cleared.

He ordered that investigators working on all pending cases should, if necessary, work day and night so that they could finish their work, if possible within two weeks. The President showed impatience over the delayed reports on pending cases. He said that investigators should not lag in their work.

The President stressed that his order applied not only to investigations being made in Malacañang but also to those in all other offices of the government. He told his department secretaries to hurry up the investigations being conducted in their departments. He added they should proceed regardless of whoever would be hurt by the investigation.

The President issued the above directives after he had ordered:

(1) The sending of Lt. Col. Angel Salcedo, deputy AFP judge advocate general, to Bacnotan, La Union, to investigate the charges filed by the ousted FACOMA president and general manager, Isabelo Ocampo, to the effect

that the local FACOMAs refused to buy low grade Virginia tobacco leaf but later bought it through Chinese middlemen;

(2) The temporary transfer of CAA Administrator Urbano B. Caldoza to the office of Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma and Deputy CAA Administrator Emilio Asistores to the office of Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao. At the same time, the President designated Maj. Arturo Sevilla, PAF operations officer at Nichols Air Base, as acting administrator of the CAA, pending the resolution of the charges filed against Caldoza and Asistores; and

(3) NARRA General Manager Raoul Beloso not to open any new settlements unless the settlement site was first provided with artesian wells and the roads were surveyed by the Bureau of Lands.

The President's order regarding the stepping up of the tempo of the various investigations being conducted by the different government offices was prompted by the slow pace with which these investigations were being carried out.

Among the pending investigations are those against the Philippine Tobacco Administration general manager, Manuel Turingan; the director of plant industry, Eugenio Cruz; the Board of Liquidators chairman, Filomeno Kintanar; CAA Administrator Caldoza and Deputy CAA Administrator Asistores; and former Customs Commissioner Edilberto David, as well as the alleged suicide of the former Wao settlement superintendent, Col. Mariano Griño, the backpay racket, etc.

The President said that government investigators who were probing all the various charges of alleged anomalies in the government should not sleep on their work but hurry up with their investigations so that swift justice could be administered to all.

Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao informed the President during the Cabinet meeting that Huk Commander Makiling had been killed at 5 a.m. Wednesday, June 6, at a barrio in Tanauan, Batangas. Balao said that the scout rangers team of the 2nd MA was responsible for the killing of Makiling.

The President presided over the Cabinet meeting from 10:20 a.m. up to 11:55 a.m. The meeting was held at the family dining room. As the President had an engagement, he gave the chair to Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia, who continued presiding over the Cabinet meeting up to 12:25 p.m.

The Cabinet formed a committee to re-examine the policy on the sending of scholars and fellows abroad. The committee is chairmanned by Vice-President Garcia with Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, and Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, as members.

In view of the formation of this committee, action on all applications for scholarships and fellowships was deferred until the committee has submitted as report.

June 7.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay and Congress leaders agreed during a breakfast conference this morning on June 20 as opening date for the special session and on the agenda of 16 items. The agenda agreed upon includes the national budget, the public works bill, the ratification of the Japanese peace treaty and the reparations agreement, and some tax measures.

The President's proclamation convening the special meet will not confine the session to any specific duration except that it will not exceed 30 days. This has been the practice with previous special sessions called by President Magsaysay.

Congress leaders reported to the President at the breakfast conference that agreement had been reached between the Senate and the House of Representatives on the budget and that both chambers were nearing accord on the public works bill.

The special session agenda follows:

1. National Budget (pending in conference committee)
2. Public Works bill (pending in conference committee)
3. Bill on estate, inheritance, and gift tax, expected to raise P4 million in revenues (pending in House)
4. Specific taxes, also involving P4 million in revenues (pending in House)
5. Privilege taxes on business and occupation, which will raise nearly P13 million (pending in conference committee)
6. Amusement taxes, involving P4 million, to be amended so as to impose a graduated scale of taxes on amusement places, depending on their size, quality of entertainment, etc., instead of a flat rate as under the present bill (pending in House)
7. National tax census (pending in House)
8. Amendments to the motor vehicle law, to increase levies on expensive cars (pending in House)
9. Reparations, involving (a) ratification of the Japanese peace treaty, (b) ratification of the reparations agreement, (c) creation of a reparations commission, and (d) appropriation of an addition P100,000 for the Philippine mission in Tokyo, which will be elevated to an embassy
10. Amendments of the NAMARCO law, to permit this agency to spend its net earnings for operation purposes
11. Bill providing incentives for development and exploitation of the country's base metal resources
12. The apprenticeship bill
13. Bill creating an additional division of three justices in the Court of Appeals.
14. Bill to promote scientific research and development, among other means, through the establishment of an Institute of Scientific Research in the University of the Philippines
15. Bill declaring Intramuros a commercial and educational district, in order to promote the long-delayed rehabilitation and development of this area
16. Flexible tariff bill authorizing the President to decrease by not more than 90 per cent or increase by not more than 10 times the rates of import duty

The Malacañang conference drew up this agenda after eliminating many other proposed bills on the ground that they were not urgent and could be taken up at the next regular session. The feeling was to trim the agenda down to the barest minimum.

The breakfast conference which lasted from 8 a.m. to 9:40 a.m., with the President presiding, was attended by Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Senate Majority Floor Leader Cipriano Primicias, Sen. Gil J. Puyat, Sen. Jose P. Laurel, Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Speaker Protempore Daniel Romualdez, House Majority Floor Leader Arturo M. Tolentino, Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, and Legislative Secretary Jose C. Nable.

AFTER the breakfast conference with Congress leaders, the President retired to his bedroom, where he rested the whole day. He cancelled all appointments with callers, for he was still feeling indisposed.

June 8.—FOR the third consecutive day, the President did not receive visitors today. He was reported to be still indisposed.

The President has been disturbed by reports of conflict which have affected the efficiency of some government offices. He has expressed determination to speed up investigations involving officials in an effort to throw out from the public service those who have impaired the efficiency of some government agencies.

THE President directed Crisanto Alba, Malacañang technical assistant, to resume immediately the investigation of Eugenio E. Cruz, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry, who had been accused of misconduct in office, nepotism, mental dishonesty, and maladministration. Alba was directed to submit his findings within three days.

The President also conferred with Judge Salvador Esguerra, who rendered an opinion upholding City Mayor Rodolfo Ganzon of Iloilo City in the latter's controversy with the members of the Iloilo Newsmen's Association.

At the same time, the President summoned Press Secretary J. V. Cruz and gave him a copy of Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo's message quoting in full the White House statement on the U. S. President's statement on neutrality given during his latest press conference. Cruz had the statement mimeographed at once and released to the press.

MALACAÑANG released today the opinion of legal assistant Judge Salvador V. Esguerra finding that the order of Iloilo City Mayor Rodolfo Ganzon requiring newspapermen to secure the written permission of certain officials before examining the city's police records and files was "only an implementation of an existing regulation prohibiting members of the police force from giving any information or statement to the press, unless specially authorized to do so."

Malacañang said that in view of this regulation, Judge Esguerra recommended the dismissal "for lack of merit" of the complaint lodged by the Iloilo Newsmen's Association against Mayor Ganzon for alleged infringement of freedom of the press.

President Magsaysay, however, immediately upon receiving Judge Esguerra's recommendation, appointed a special committee to study amendment of this regulation with the end in view of giving *bona fide* newspapermen freer and easier access to police records and files all over the country. The President told the committee, chaired by Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, with the Constabulary chief, Brig. Gen. Manuel Cabal, and National Press Club President Jose D. Aspiras, as members, to submit to him as quickly as possible their recommendations on this matter. The President asked them to determine, among other things, whether the State Police Regulations applied also to chartered cities.

The Iloilo Newsmen's Association had protested against an order of Mayor Ganzon requiring newsmen to request in writing authority from specified officials to examine the police blotter in Iloilo City. Ganzon directed that this authority was to be obtained from either the city mayor or his representative, or the chief of police, the chief of the traffic division, the chief of the patrol division, the chief of the secret service division, or any of the desk sergeants.

In promulgating this order, Ganzon cited section 61 of the State Police Regulations promulgated under authority of section 2, Commonwealth Act No. 88, approved by the then secretary of the interior and the President of the Philippines, which enjoined that "no member of the state police shall give information or statements of any nature whatsoever to the press except when specially authorized to do so."

Judge Esguerra said the Ganzon directive was "only an implementation of an existing regulation." He expressed the opinion that the directive "discloses no intent to muzzle the press in Iloilo City." He pointed out that in the same directive, Ganzon had made clear to the Iloilo City police department that it had the duty "to see to it that the fullest available information should be given to anyone who asked for it."

Press Secretary J. V. Cruz said that while the President felt the Iloilo city chief executive had acted within this regulation in promulgating his directive, there was need to re-examine the pertinent regulation with the end in view

of providing freer and easier access to the news to *bona fide* police reporters. It was for this reason, Cruz said, that the President created the committee to re-study this situation.

Cruz reiterated that it had been President Magsaysay's consistent policy to promote and defend freedom of the press in this country. He said the Chief Executive's action on this case was completely in accord with this established policy of the Administration.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today declared Tuesday, June 19, 1956, Dr. Jose Rizal's birthday, as a special public holiday.

This year's celebration of Rizal's birthday will be the ninety-fifth.

In Proclamation No. 302, the President said that "it is desirable that the people be afforded full opportunity to celebrate the day with appropriate ceremonies in keeping with his (Rizal's) ideals."

June 9.—PRESIDENT and Mrs. Magsaysay, together with their three children, left Malacañang this morning to board the *Santa Maria*, where they will spend quietly their wedding anniversary tomorrow.

In accordance with the custom set by the Chief Executive since he became President relative to family observances, the nation's First Couple will spend the day quietly with their children. It was not known whether they would stay on board the *Santa Maria* or debark at Zambales, the President's home province.

The First Lady and her children Teresita, Milagros, and Ramon, Jr., practically had to drag the President out of Malacañang for the holiday cruise when it seemed for a while that he was going to be bogged down again in official chores. The President was then in conference with Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, NARRA General Manager Raoul Beloso, and Col. Luis Franco on NARRA affairs; particularly on Crisol's report and recommendations from a flying trip to the NARRA settlement in Maramag, Bukidnon.

After ascertaining that these officials had completed their business with the President, the First Lady reminded him of his date with his family. A delegation of Pepsi-Cola workers who marched to Malacañang to seek the President's help in their company's shutdown arrived after the First Family had already left. The President and his family boarded the boat at about 10 a.m.

Mrs. Magsaysay recalled that their wedding anniversary in 1954 nearly ended in tragedy. The President on that day rushed to Mindanao to inspect some government projects and met three near brushes with death. His plane *Pagasa* developed engine trouble while in flight, an Air Force PB-4Y to which he transferred was roughed up while landing on Mindanao waters, and a PAL plane which he later took overshot the runway at Zamboanga.

The First Lady recalled that reports reaching her then of these incidents forced her to bed with a bad case of shock. She said she did not want the same thing to happen this year. "That's why the children and I are kidnapping him this time," she told Palace aides smilingly.

Even then, it will not be a completely workless anniversary for the President, as he took along for study a batch of more than 200 bills approved during the third regular session of the Third Congress. His deadline for acting on these bills is June 16.

The President and the First Lady were married on June 10, 1933, at the Lourdes church in Intramuros, Manila.

The President today received the report of Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol on the latter's investigation of conditions in the NARRA settlements in Mindanao.

Crisol, who was accompanied by Beloso and Col. Franco said he found "administrative and operational deficiencies" in Maramag. He said bad weather prevented him from proceeding to Wao.

Crisol reported that the main difficulty in Maramag seemed to lie in unsatisfactory procurement procedures. He recommended the setting up of the NARRA regional office at Cagayan de Oro City for the Mindanao area to handle procurement.

President Magsaysay implemented immediately Crisol's recommendation to improve the road from Maramag to Wao by ordering an engineer battalion to the site to undertake the construction work. He also expressed his intention of introducing major changes in the NARRA.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today found Macario Naval, president of the Philippine Normal College, guilty of charges filed against him and fined him 15 days' salary. The President also reprimanded Naval and admonished him to be more careful in the discharge of his duties in the future.

Although Naval was found guilty of some charges, the President said that he was inclined to agree with the observation of the investigating committee that "the infraction and failures of the respondent (Naval) were not willful but attributable to his multifarious duties." The President added that Naval's negligence "is not of such a degree as to warrant severe disciplinary action."

An administrative case was filed against Naval by one Josefina T. Oro, a member of the faculty of the Philippine Normal College. Naval was charged with irregularities consisting of exploitation of students, electioneering, nepotism, favoritism, incompetence, condescension to falsification of records, and mental dishonesty.

A presidential committee composed of Education Undersecretary Martin Aguilar as chairman and Gregorio Rasalan, chief of the law and investigation division of the Bureau of Civil Service, and Pedro Albano of the Malacañang legal staff, as members, investigated the charges.

June 10.—AFTER breakfast with his family this morning aboard the presidential yacht *Santa Maria*, the President studied more than 200 bills submitted for his signature. He began going over the bills about 10 a.m. and did not stop working until about 2:30 in the afternoon, when he ate his lunch.

AT 6 o'clock in the evening, the First Couple and their children saw a movie entitled, *Autumn Leaves*, on board the yacht. Then they had dinner at 8:10 p.m.

The President was unheard from almost the whole day on this 23rd wedding anniversary of his. It was not until 9 o'clock in the evening when a sketchy report was received at Malacañang from the presidential yacht. The report announced that the President would give his decision tomorrow on two prisoners convicted of murder and who were scheduled to be electrocuted this week. One of the prisoners was slated to be executed at 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. The report did not even indicate where the yacht was nor when the First Family would return to Malacañang.

The report stated, however, that the First Couple received a "shower of best wishes." How and from whom, the report did not specify.

June 11.—APPARENTLY recovered from a certain ailment which had kept him away from callers last week, the President returned this morning from a two-day cruise to an undisclosed place on board the presidential yacht *Santa Maria*. He returned with members of his family who snatched him out of Malacañang last Saturday to enable him to spend the day with them on his 23rd wedding anniversary.

Immediately upon his arrival, the President ordered the release of his decree saving two doomed criminals, Guillermo Galit and Tomas Ubiña, from the electric chair. One of the convicts was scheduled to die on the electric chair at Muntinlupa at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

THE death penalty imposed upon prisoner Guillermo Galit by the Court of First Instance of Mindoro Oriental in Criminal Case No. R-790 and the Supreme Court in G.R. No. L-6758, which is due for execution today, June 11,

1956, was commuted to life imprisonment by the President, upon recommendation of the undersecretary of justice, Jesus Barrera, as acting chairman of the Board of Pardons and Parole.

The action of the President was motivated by the fact that Guillermo Galit was not the most guilty in the killing of the deceased, Silverio Palafos. It was his co-accused, Leonardo Marcelo, who was the most guilty. Prisoner Guillermo Galit and his co-accused, Leonardo Marcelo and Pedro Galicia, were charged with murder for the death of Silvestre Palafos. Galit's co-accused pleaded guilty and each was sentenced to life imprisonment. Prisoner Galit, who believed he was not liable because he merely went with Marcelo when the latter shot and killed Silverio Palafos, entered trial but was convicted and sentenced to death by the Court of First Instance of Mindoro Oriental. The decision was affirmed by the Supreme Court.

In saving the life of the prisoner, the President took into account the fact that it was Leonardo Marcelo, who shot and killed Silverio Palafos; that prisoner Galit only called for Palafos at this house and when the deceased opened the door, Leonardo Marcelo fired at him; and that it was also Leonardo Marcelo who shot to death another victim, Patrolman Ulpiano Moral, before the three escaped from the municipal jail of Roxas, Mindoro Oriental, where they were confined at the time as detention prisoners. Apparently Leonardo Marcelo was the most guilty and should be the one to go to the electric chair, but because he pleaded guilty he was sentenced to life imprisonment. The President cannot bear to see Guillermo Galit die while the most guilty, simply because of technicality that he admitted his offense, was sentenced merely to life imprisonment.

The commutation of the death penalty was immediately communicated to the director of prisons.

THE death penalty imposed upon prisoner Tomas Ubiña by the Supreme Court in G. R. Mo. L-6969, the execution of which was stayed on two occasions for a period of thirty days each, was commuted to life imprisonment by the President, thereby restoring the original penalty of life imprisonment meted out to him and others by the Court of First Instance of Cagayan in Criminal Case No. 967.

It appears that on September 14, 1952, Mayor Aureliano Carag of Solana, Cagayan, was treacherously killed by Ubiña and his companions while he was in barrio Bangag of said municipality; and that on the same occasion two innocent inmates of the house to which the late mayor had gone were also shot and killed.

In saving Ubiña from the electric chair, the President took into consideration the following circumstances: (1) Carag's killing was the offshoot of a public personal affront or insult committed previously by the late mayor against Ubiña (Carag's opponent for the mayoralty in the 1951 elections); (2) the Supreme Court seemingly laid undue stress on certain circumstances to aggravate the penalty against Ubiña; and (3) the retraction by state witnesses that their testimony against Ubiña in court was fabricated, as Ubiña had nothing to do with the killing, and that they could not in conscience bear to see an innocent man electrocuted for an offense he did not commit.

The commutation of the death penalty was immediately communicated to director of prisons.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today told laid-off Pepsi-Cola workers and employees that the Central Bank was due to reach a decision on their case. The President said he had been informed by Dean Vicente Sinco of the CB Monetary Board that a formula would be offered to the Pepsi-Cola management this afternoon for the continuance of the firm's operation.

The Chief Executive, however, told the leaders of the laid-off workers that he would discuss matters with them again if no decision was reached on the case by tomorrow. The laid-off workers carried placards saying that they would not be able to send their children to school if they were not re-employed. The President expressed sympathy with the workers.

Gov. Jose Briones of Cebu also called on the Chief Executive and discussed with him the case of the Pepsi-Cola workers in his province who were also laid off.

Another big delegation which called on the President was the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines group headed by its president, Cesar Lorenzo. The CCP members requested that Filipino importers be given 75 per cent of the dollar allocations for imports. They told the President that the 61.4 per cent which they were now getting should be increased.

The President told the CCP delegation that he would discuss with Congress leaders the merits of the proposed measure. The CCP delegation requested the enactment of the bill giving 75 per cent of the dollar allocations to Filipino importers.

Seeds for Democracy officials headed by Porfirio Flores, chairman of the board of directors, sought the help of the President in exempting the seeds which come from the United States to be given away free to farmers, from the special import tax of seven per cent. The President said he would discuss the matter with the Cabinet.

A large delegation of landless farmers from Dinalupihan, Bataan, accompanied by Gov. Emilio Naval, also sought the aid of the President in finding a solution to their land problem. The farmers told the Chief Executive that they were the rightful tenants of the public land which the government had purchased from a private owner and which was now being subdivided for distribution to landless farmers.

The farmers also informed the President that a government screening committee was screening the farmers who applied for the subdivisions. They complained that there was discrimination in the screening because some farmers, who were not from Dinalupihan, were being given allegedly three hectares each. The President said that he would direct the committee to give justice to each farmer.

The President also received the members of the Pasay City Citizens Health Council, accompanied by Pasay City Mayor Pablo Cuneta and Chief of Police Ricardo Nieva. The Pasay health council requested aid for the construction of a city health center. Among those in the delegation were Dr. Manuel Galvez, president of the council; Mrs. Balmaceda, vice-president; Marcelo Vasquez, secretary; Mrs. Revilla, treasurer; Presbitero Velasco, legal counsel; and Drs. Caniza and Camcosa.

The World Friendship Tour group of Texans presented the President with a set of small flags that used to fly in Texas, including the Lone Star, the Confederate, and the Union flags. Head of the group was Gov. Iwatoro Uchiyama of Nakagawa Prefecture, Japan, who was accompanied by Jose Estrada, Department of Foreign Affairs protocol officer.

Eugene de Weck, secretary of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland, also paid a courtesy call on the President. With him were John W. Mittner, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross here, and Dr. Telesforo Calasanz, acting PNRC manager.

The National Youth Welfare Council officials called on the President and informed him of the celebration they would hold on the Luneta on June 19 in commemoration of Dr. Jose Rizal's birthday. The council takes care of the participation of the youth in national activities. Chairman of the council is Otilio Arellano. Social Welfare Administrator Mrs. Amparo P. Villamor and Malacañang adviser on student affairs Ignacio Debuque were also present.

Dimas L. Micosa, inventor of a hand-operated floor polisher, showed his product to the President and requested government aid to finance the manufacture of the floor polisher. The President was impressed by the floor polisher and sent a note to the Department of Commerce and Industry to look into the request of Micosa. With Micosa were Felipe Micosa and Analeta Ronquillo.

Members of the Philippine Broadcasters Association were also among the callers of the President. The members were Ben Pineda, Roger Nite, Pecto Maniego, and Felix Caliwag.

Other callers of the President were Sens. Francisco Rodrigo and Jose C. Zulueta, Rep. Conrado Morente of Mindoro Oriental, and Govs. Conrado Estrella of Pangasinan and Alejandro Almendras of Davao, who sought aid for the flood control project in his province.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay, upon receiving the complaint of the Philippine Sugar Association and the Canlubang Sugar Estate against the issuance of Philippine Sugar Order No. 7, dated May 7, 1956, authorizing the transfers of sugar quotas from planters in one mill district to parties pertaining to other mill districts without the knowledge and consent of the milling companies affected, today directed Judge Salvador V. Esguerra, Malacañang legal assistant, to conduct an investigation into the alleged illegality of said order issued by Vicente G. Bunuan, sugar quota administrator, with the approval of Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma.

The Philippine Sugar Association, represented by Manuel Elizalde, president, and the Canlubang Sugar Estate and the Asociacion de Plantadores de Ca-Ba-Lag, called the attention of the President to section 8-A of Act No. 4166, as amended by Republic Act No. 1072, which provides that any deficiency in filling the quota of certain planters in one milling district shall be reallocated by the Sugar Quota Administration to other holders of quota allotments, first within the same district and then to quota holders in other districts. They claim that under this provision, the Sugar Quota Administration cannot allocate shortages in quota allotments to planters outside of a particular mill district if there are planters within the same district who produce excess "C" Sugar, the latter being entitled to enjoy preference in the reallocation of the shortages of other planters in the same district.

Judge Esguerra immediately summoned Vicente Bunuan, sugar quota administrator, to appear and answer the charges of the Philippine Sugar Association and explain the circumstances surrounding the issuance of Philippine Sugar Order No. 7, dated May 7, 1956.

THE President today assured residents of five big barrios in Lingayen, Pangasinan, that a Bailey bridge would be constructed across the Limahong Channel which separates the barrios from the town proper of Lingayen and other towns.

A large delegation of residents of the five barrios, headed by Judge Juan Reyes of the Court of First Instance of La Union, called on the President and complained that the worn-out landing barge being used to ferry persons and vehicles across the channel, which is more than 200 feet wide, could not cope with the heavy traffic, especially during market days.

The Limahong Channel had been dug by the Chinese pirate, Limahong, when he escaped through Pangasinan to the Lingayen Gulf. The barrios affected by the lack of a bridge are Domalandan, Estanza, Balongobong, Malimpuec, and Sabangan.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay is donating a trophy to be awarded to the outstanding treasurer of the year at ceremonies to be held at the Malacañang social hall Tuesday afternoon, June 19.

On the same occasion, Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia will present a plaque to the outstanding province and city which have consistently distinguished themselves in the submission of tax returns during the past three years. These awards will be followed by the giving of diplomas of merit by Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez to all the treasurers who had vied for the principal award.

The ceremonies will cap the year-long tax education campaign conducted by the League of Women Voters of the Philippines. This campaign was intended as a project furthering the League's citizenship training and government assistance goals.

The criteria for the selection of the awardees consisted of the highest percentage of real estate and miscellaneous taxes collected and also the personal behavior of the treasurers concerned in dealing with the public.

The board of judges is composed of Dr. Maria Cid-Peralta, chairman; Dr. Belen S. Arguelles, vice-chairman; and Mrs. Louise G. Orendain, Internal Revenue Collector Silverio Blaquera, Justiniano Castillo of the Department of Finance, and Mrs. Fernanda S. Balboa, members.

June 13.—AFTER a two-day strain imposed by numerous callers, the President again felt indisposed today. He had to confine himself to his bedroom the whole day and came out only once in a while to meet a few visitors. In fact he could not even attend the regular meeting of the Cabinet this noon.

The President, who showed virility and physical stamina during his hectic barrio-to-barrio presidential campaign in 1953, had been apparently weakened by the tight schedule he has kept daily to meet hundreds of callers at Malacañang.

Although a little indisposed, the President kept himself busy going over the reorganization plans and the bills passed by the Third Congress in its third regular session.

THE PRESIDENT, despite his indisposition, received the members of the Sugar Planters Association who requested the inclusion of Senate Bill No. 375, also known as the Sugar Quota bill, in the agenda for the special session.

The President told the sugar planters that he would study their request. The bill had been approved by the Senate in the last regular session and is pending in the House of Representatives.

The sugar quota bill seeks to implement the provisions of the Laurel-Langley Agreement in the allocation of sugar quotas which may be exported to the United States. The delegation of sugar planters was headed by Jose Mapa Gomez, president of the association, and accompanied by Reps. Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo, Lorenzo Teves of Negros Oriental, Carlos Hilado of Negros Occidental, and Tobias Fornier of Antique.

During his conference with the sugar group, the President directed the Weather Bureau to dispatch immediately a seismologist to look into the volcanic activities of the Kanlaon volcano upon the request of Reps. Hilado and Teves.

Gov. Alejandro Almendras of Davao and Mayor Carmelo Porras of Davao City also called on the President and requested aid for the speedy completion of the Davao waterworks.

Other callers of the President included Sen. Domocao Alonto; Reps. Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur, Francisco Ortega of La Union, and Felipe Garduque of Cagayan; Gov. Antonio Raquiza of Ilocos Norte; Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol; and G. W. Churchill, manager of the Shell Co. of the Philippines.

THE President today said he has been studying very carefully the implementation of the government reorganization plans approved by Congress. He expressed concern over the effect of these plans on employees who may be laid off, especially the small-salaried ones.

A Malacañang spokesman said that the President would implement these plans but would make provision so that the small employees would be protected. The President was also considering whether he would implement the reorganization plans all at the same time or by the issuance of piece-meal executive orders.

AS the President was busy studying the reorganization plans and bills passed by Congress, he could not attend the Cabinet meeting which was held this noon at the family dining room. The meeting was presided over by Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia.

In view of the absence of the President, the Cabinet discussed mostly routine matters. Among the items approved was the designation of Manuel Escudero, Philippine minister to Mexico, and Daniel Gomez, vice-president of the Philippine Air Lines, as chief delegate and chairman, and member, respectively, of the Philippine delegation to the Tenth Assembly of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to be held from June 19, 1956, at Caracas, Venezuela.

The Cabinet met from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay was advised today by NARRA General Manager Raoul Beloso that 24 NARRA officials and employees have been suspended and investigated for alleged irregularities since he (Beloso) assumed office up to the present.

Besides these 24, Beloso reported that three more officials were also under preliminary administrative investigation.

Beloso rendered his report to the President in line with the Administration's drive to weed out undesirables from the settlement office. Pressing this campaign further, Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, who has investigated conditions in NARRA settlements in Mindanao, scheduled a luncheon-meeting tomorrow with Beloso and members of the NARRA board to discuss necessary reforms in the organization.

MALACAÑANG announced today that administrative proceedings against seven judges of courts of first instance were pending with the Supreme Court and that cases against another seven judges of courts of first instance were under study by the Office of the Solicitor General.

Malacañang said of the seven cases pending with the Supreme Court, three had been filed by the solicitor general. All three alleged falsification of certificates of service, are tantamount to falsification of public documents.

The other four cases were filed by private individuals for alleged misconduct. Some of these cases have been pending with the high tribunal for more than a year, Malacañang added.

The Palace said all the seven other cases against judges of courts of first instance under study by the solicitor general's office involved falsification of certificates of service.

A judge signing a certificate of service certifies that all special proceedings, applications, petitions, and all civil and criminal cases which had been submitted to him for decision and had been pending for a period of 90 days or more, have been determined and decided by him on or before the time of making the certificate. A judge failing to accomplish this certificate may not collect his pay until he has brought his docket up to date within the 90-day limit.

IN the afternoon, the President received the credentials of Chitti Sucharitakul, former minister and now the first ambassador of Thailand to the Philippines.

The ceremony which was held at the Malacañang ceremonial hall was attended by high Philippine Government officials, among whom were Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia, Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon, Health Secretary Paulino Garcia, Public Works Undersecretary Rafael Contreras, Protocol Officer Manuel G. Zamora, Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo (senior aide), Maj. Pat Garcia, (aide), Counsellors Octavio L. Maloles and Benito Bautista, Jose Estrada (foreign affairs protocol officer), Tony Prats, and Pedro Angara Aragon the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Ambassador Sucharitakul was dressed in naval uniform with decorations. He was attended by members of his staff: namely, Chuab Hongsakul, naval attache; Kaivul Thavaradhana, air attache; Chalerm Sak Judabong, army attache; and Kamchai Thiupong, attache.

IN the evening, the President received officers of the different veterans organizations and urged them to merge and unite for the sake of those who fought the Japanese during the last war.

Heading the veterans was Col. Frisco San Juan, former national commander of the Philippine Veterans Legion.

The President had dinner with the veterans leaders at the Palace family dining room.

June 12.—THE President had breakfast this morning with Sens. Edmundo B. Cea and Pedro Sabido and Gov. Juan Alberto of Catanduanes. They discussed public works and other improvements in the Bicol region, particularly irrigation projects.

The Bicol solons requested the President to help them acquire machinery from the anticipated Japanese reparation goods for the industrial development of their region, particularly of the abaca industry. The President said he would assist in the industrial development of the Bicol region.

WITHOUT the usual ceremonies attendant to the signing of important bills in Malacañang, the President this morning signed the Rizal bill which stirred the opposition of Catholic groups while it dragged through the legislative mill during the third regular session of the Third Congress. The President signed the bill in his study room in the presence of Rep. Jacobo Gonzales of Laguna, who fought for the controversial measure in the House of Representatives.

Gonzales brought a copy of the bill signed earlier by Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez and Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr. It was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Jose P. Laurel. The new law requires all students in public and private schools to study the unexpurgated novels of Dr. Jose Rizal, *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*, including his other writings and biography.

The President also signed this day House Bill No. 2689, granting temporary permit to Enrique Zobel of Makati, Rizal, to operate a private radio station and another bill amending the charter of Bacolod City.

THE Chief Executive received this morning Reps. Godofredo Ramos and Eulogio Rodriguez, Jr., of the House committee on ways and means. They proposed a conference of Congress leaders with the President in order to thresh out the conflicting views on the proposed tariff code.

President Magsaysay agreed to call a conference with Congress leaders sometime next week to reconcile the differences of both Chambers on the proposed tariff code. House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Godofredo Ramos of Aklan and some members of his committee will be invited to the conference.

The President told Reps. Ramos and Rodriguez that he had no objections to the proposed tariff code as long as both Chambers would agree to take up the bill in the coming special session.

Rep. Ramos explained to the President that without a tariff code, there would be no legal basis for the proposed President's power to decrease or increase tariff rates except Executive Order No. 105. According to Rep. Ramos, Executive Order No. 105 was incomplete because it singled out only 151 imposed items against the more than 3,200 listed in the proposed tariff code.

The Aklan solon said that the proposed bill, if finally included in the special session agenda, could be finished by the House in one week. He also told the President that one of the objections of the Senate to the proposed tariff code was that there might not be enough time during the special session.

AFTER the conference with Reps. Ramos and Rodriguez, the President received callers most of whom were provincial delegations accompanied by their respective congressmen, governors, and mayors.

Rep. Augusto Francisco of Manila accompanied labor leaders who presented to the President amendments to the labor law. He requested that the amendments be included in the agenda of the special session. The amendments sought by the labor leaders were:

- (1) That no restraining order should be given before both sides are heard in a strike; and
- (2) That the venue of Action should be in the court of first instance of the province where the strike occurred.

The labor leaders cited a strike in the provinces where the venue of action took place in a Manila court of first instance. Labor leaders who saw the President were Roberto S. Oca of the PTWO, Jose C. Espino and Ignacio Locsina of the PTUC, Alejandro Lazaro of the Coto Labor Union, Guillermo Santos of GMSU, and Marcelino Lontok of NATU.

The newly-elected officers of the Philippines Lions International, District 301, paid their respects to the President and informed him that a Philippine delegation, headed by incoming Governor Eugenio "Gene" Eusebio, would attend the Lions International Convention in Miami, Florida, to be held from June 27 to 30. Aside from Governor Eusebio, others who called on the President were outgoing Governor Carlos Revilla, Deputy Governor Eulalio Legaspi, Lions Cabinet Secretary Leonides Batacan, and Lions Cabinet Treasurer Henry Tang.

The provincial delegations, which called on the President and requested aid for various public works projects, including school houses, artesian wells, feeders roads, and puericulture centers, were the Misamis Occidental municipal officials accompanied by Governor Diego Ty Deling; Iloilo provincial and municipal officials composed of Rep. Ricardo Ladrado, Governor Mariano Peñaflorida, Iloilo Board Secretary Dometillo Abordo, Mayors Martin Mondejar of Ma-asin, Jose Greidoriagao of Cabaatuan, and Simeon Cañonero of Alimodian, and Councilor Lucas Buscar of Janiway; Batangas delegation, headed by Rep. Apolinario Apacible; Quezon municipal officials and farmers, accompanied by Reps. Manuel Enverga and Leon Guinto, Jr.; Bohol mayors, accompanied by Rep. Bartolome Cabangbang; Mindoro Oriental delegation, accompanied by Rep. Conrado Morente; Zamboanga del Norte municipal officials with Gov. Romulo Garrovillo, Pampanga delegation, accompanied by Rep. Emilio Cortez; Misamis Oriental officials, headed by Rep. Ignacio Cruz; and Bacoar, Cavite, residents, accompanied by Rep. Jose T. Cajulis and Mayor Benigno Guinto.

The President assured a group of displaced landless persons from Ambuklao, Mountain Province, who were among the callers, that they would be given priority in the distribution of public land in Salinas and Allay Valley, Nueva Vizcaya. The landless farmers were accompanied by Rep. Ramon Mitra and Gov. Bado Dangwa.

Other callers of the President were Sen. Quintin Paredes, Rep. Vicente Peralta of Sorsogon, Gov. Alejandro Almendras of Davao, Gov. Arsenio Lugay of Tarlac, and Public Works Undersecretary Rafael Contreras.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning cited General Emilio Aguinaldo for his exceptional and meritorious services as the Supreme Filipino Revolutionary General "during the fight for Philippine independence against Spain and as the President of the First Philippine Republic."

At the same time, the President conferred upon Gen. Aguinaldo the *Quezon Service Cross* "for exemplary service to the nation in memory of the late President Manuel L. Quezon."

The citation and the "Quezon Service Cross" were presented to General Aguinaldo by Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia this morning at the Aguinaldo residence in Kawit, Cavite, on the occasion of the 58th anniversary of the First Philippine Republic. The Vice-President made the presentation on behalf of the President.

The citation praised General Aguinaldo for "his staunch belief in the principles of Freedom that animated his career, first as a member of the *Katipunan* and then as the outstanding leader of the Revolutionary Movement; his unshaken confidence in the capability of the Filipino people to govern themselves and work out their national destiny; and his unflinching devotion to the noble mission of freeing the Philippines from foreign domination by his proclamation of an independent Filipino government on May 24, 1898, which, on June 12 the same year, asserted the independence of the Philippines."

The award of the *Quezon Service Cross* had been made by virtue of the provisions of Joint Resolution No. 4 of the Congress of the Philippines, dated October 21, 1946. This resolution created the *Quezon Service Cross*, "for exemplary service to the nation in memory of the late President Manuel L. Quezon."

June 14.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay again devoted most of his time today going over bills which the Third Congress had approved in its third regular session. He has only until tomorrow to either sign or veto the bills. If he has some doubt on certain bills, he may either veto them or allow them to lapse into laws without his signature.

The President this morning signed into law House Bill No. 2891, making Batangas, Batangas, a port of entry. Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., headed a large delegation of Batangas officials and residents who witnessed the signing of the bill.

The President was told by the Batangas officials that the new law would mean an increased volume of business in their province and would benefit about 1,000 stevedores. They also said that the new port of entry would relieve congestion in the Manila Port.

After signing the bill, the President encouraged the people of Batangas to plant coffee and cacao in order to enhance the economic progress of their province.

Others present at the signing of the bill were Rep. Numeriano Babao, Gov. Feliciano Leviste, Provincial Board Members F. Perez and F. Malabanan, Mayor Pedro Tolentino of Batangas, Luis E. Soña (president of the Batangas Federation of Labor), Western Colleges President Juan Javier, Francisco Medrano, Leandro Macatangay, and ex-Governor Vicente Caedo.

The President signed a total of nine bills. The others he signed into law were:

- (1) H. B. No. 4913, appropriating P2 million for the purposes of the Jose Rizal National Centennial Commission;
- (2) H. B. No. 2237, creating the municipality of Lapinig in Samar;
- (3) H. B. No. 5146, creating the Samar Institute of Technology;
- (4) H. B. No. 5288, providing means for increasing the Highway Special Fund;
- (5) H. B. No. 3746, granting a franchise to operate an electric light, heat, and power system to Rosiano Rodano;
- (6) H. B. No. 2681, converting the Alicia Agricultural and Fishery School in Catanduanes into a national agricultural and industrial school to be known as the Catanduanes Agricultural and Industrial School;
- (7) H. B. No. 5624, granting the province of Catanduanes a franchise to operate electric light, heat, and power systems in all the municipalities of the province; and
- (8) H. B. No. 4745, granting a franchise to the Solano, Nueva Vizcaya, FACOMA, to operate an electric light, heat, and power system.

The President set for 9 a.m. tomorrow, June 15, the signing of the amended press freedom law. Expected to witness the signing are the authors of the bill, officers and members of the National Press Club and local publishers, editors, and newsmen.

AS the President was busy going over the bills, a group of fishermen from Bangkusay, Tondo, called on the President and complained that private houses were being constructed in the reserved area for the fishermen's village in Bangkusay. The President told PCAC Vice-Chairman Antonio Villegas, who accompanied the fishermen, to refer the matter to Manila Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson or Chief of Police Telesforo Tenorio for action.

The President also received Sen. Domocao Alonto; Reps. Cornelio Villareal of Capiz, Ferdinand Marcos of Ilocos Norte, Manuel Cases of La Union, and Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur; and Gov. Dominador Chipeco of Laguna, who accompanied a delegation which requested aid for public works projects.

June 15.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning told Manila top officials that he would sign the bill approved in Congress increasing the number of Manila councilors from 12 to 20. He advised the city officials to discuss among themselves the features of the bill.

The Chief Executive had a breakfast conference this morning with Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson, Vice-Mayor Jose Marcos Rocas, and Reps. Arturo Tolentino, Joaquin R. Rocas, and Augusto Francisco.

Also discussed during the conference were:

- (1) The exemption of Manila from the provisions of Executive Order No. 37, relative to the transfer of all government unserviceable property to the NASSCO (National Shipyards and Steel Corporation);
- (2) The exemption of Manila from paying import duties; and
- (3) The release of the site of the proposed Bagumbayan police station.

The President in response to the city officials' requests directed Malacañang Legal Assistant Salvador V. Esguerra to exempt Manila from the effectivity of Executive Order No. 37 after Mayor Lacson had told the Chief Executive that scrap iron was needed by the city administration for bartering from Japan with equipment for city improvements. He also directed Agriculture Undersecretary Jaime Ferrer to release the site for the construction of the proposed Bagumbayan police station.

Regarding the exemption of Manila from paying import duties, the Chief Executive said that he would study the matter.

THE President after breakfast this morning signed four bills. These brought the total of bills approved by the President so far to 68, with one vetoed.

As there are 231 bills approved by both Chambers of Congress, the President has still to act on 162 bills before midnight tomorrow, the deadline for acting on all of the bills.

The four bills signed by the President this morning were:

- (1) H. B. 4601 (R. A. 1477), otherwise known as the Press Freedom Law;
- (2) H. B. 1468 (R. A. 1476), abolishing taxes on radio and TV sets;
- (3) H. B. 2412 (R. A. 1478), creating a board of travel and tourist industry; and
- (4) H. B. 5739 (R. A. 1479), increasing specific taxes on cigars and cigarettes.

The President signed the Press Freedom Law in the presence of publishers, editors, and reporters of Manila dailies. Four of the five newsmen who had been sentenced to jail last year for refusing to reveal their news sources and some of the authors of the bill were present.

The Press Freedom Law gives immunity to the press in refusing to reveal the source of news except where the "security of the state" is involved.

Four of the newspapermen who had been given jail terms for refusing to reveal their source of news, namely, Jose D. Aspiras, Francisco de Leon, Max Edralin, and Gregorio C. Coronel, were present at the signing. Rep. Ferdinand Marcos, Floro Crisologo, and Pedro Lopez, Jr., co-authors of the bill, were also present. Rep. Ramon Durano, another co-author, could not be present.

After signing the bill, the President gave brief remarks on the significance of the signing of the law. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, p. 3011, for the full text of the remarks.)

A twin measure to the Press Freedom Law is H. B. 1468, abolishing the tax on radio and television sets and condoning back taxes for them. This law is considered a companion to the Press Freedom Law because it will contribute to the wider dissemination of information.

H. B. 2412 creates a Board of Travel and Tourist Industry to regulate international travel and tourism with the view to developing a prosperous tourist industry. The board will be composed of the secretary of the Department of Commerce and Industry as chairman and the undersecretaries of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Justice, and Public Works and Communications, the president of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, and the president of the Philippine Tourist and Travel Association, as members.

Rep. Crisologo of Ilocos Sur and Gov. Antonio Raquiza (formerly Representative) of Ilocos Norte, co-authors of the bill, witnessed the signing. Sen. Edmundo B. Cea and Rep. Ramon Durano of Cebu, also co-authors, could not attend the ceremony. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 3011–3012, for the President's statement on the signing of the tourist bill.)

The signing of H. B. 5739, increasing the specific tax on cigars and cigarettes will increase the government revenue by about P20 million. This law amends Sec. 137 of the National Internal Revenue Code.

The President after signing the four bills received U. S. Deputy Secretary of State for Far East Affairs William J. Sebald, who was accompanied by U. S. Embassy Charge de' Affaires Charles Burrows. Sebald, who had just arrived for a four-day visit here, stayed with the President for quite a time.

The Chief Executive, after receiving Deputy Secretary Sebald, studied the remaining bills passed by the Third Congress in its third regular session.

The President also received Rep. Constancio Castañeda of Tarlac, who accompanied Bienvenido Buan, president of the Bus Operators Association of the Philippines. Castañeda and Buan urged the veto of a bill on transportation. The President referred the matter to Col. Salvador Villa, general manager of the Manila Railroad Company.

June 16.—WITH more than 200 bills to go over before the midnight deadline today, the President cancelled all appointments with callers this morning.

He called the members of the Cabinet to a special meeting this morning for the purpose of discussing with his department secretaries important points of the bills under his consideration. The meeting lasted from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Present at the Cabinet meeting, besides the department secretaries, were Justice Undersecretary Jesus G. Barrera, head of the inter-departmental committee which had gone over the bills; Judge Salvador Esguerra, Malacañang legal assistant; and Jose Nable, legislative secretary.

The President approved today a total of 187 bills and vetoed a total of 42 bills. He allowed only two bills to lapse into law.

With about 25 bills left unacted upon during the special Cabinet meeting, the President after a late luncheon again went into a huddle with a few Cabinet members and Judge Esguerra, until he completed action on 229 bills about 7 o'clock in the evening.

AFTER clearing his desk of the bills, the President motored out of Malacañang for a leisure cruise around the city. He returned early in the evening and retired with a feeling of relief.

June 17.—THE PRESIDENT today spent a quiet Sunday in the Palace after a hectic week wading through some 231 bills passed by Congress.

Learning that Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez was out of town, the President called Legislative Secretary Jose Nable and directed him to notify Congress leaders that the scheduled breakfast conference tomorrow was being postponed on account of the inability of Senate President Rodriguez to return to Manila in time for the conference on the details of the forthcoming special session.

After breakfast with his family, the President motored to the Luneta for horse riding. He was accompanied by his aide, Maj. Pat Garcia. He returned to the Palace before 11 a.m.

The President had lunch with the First Lady, after which he had a brief nap.

At 4 p.m., the President again left the Palace. He returned after three hours.

June 18.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay took it easy today after going over more than 200 bills last week. He cancelled a scheduled breakfast conference with Congress leaders this morning, following reports that Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez might not be able to attend the conference.

The President also cancelled his appointments with several callers this day, because he was scheduled to receive this morning Maj. Gen. Mahindra Singh Chopra, the new Indian minister to the Philippines.

HOWEVER, the President received Ambassador Felino Neri in his bedroom before receiving the Indian minister. Malacañang did not disclose the subject the President took up with Neri.

After receiving Neri, the President went out of his bedroom to receive Sen. Pedro Sabido. No details could be obtained regarding Sabido's visit.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning received the credentials of the Indian minister to the Philippines, Maj. Gen. Mahindra Singh Chopra, and assured him that "my Government will extend to you all the assistance you may need in the successful accomplishment of your mission."

The President also conveyed "the cordial greetings and sincere wishes of the Filipino people and my own personal best wishes for the welfare and prosperity of the people and Government of India."

The presentation of Minister Chopra's credentials took place at the ceremonial hall of Malacañang at 10 a.m. Minister Chopra, in his remarks, said that the mission given to him was to help promote friendship, understanding, and cooperation between the Philippines and India. He added that it would be his "earnest and constant endeavor to help in strengthening this trend."

After the presentation of the credentials, the President discussed with Minister Chopra the possibility of bartering Philippine hemp or copra with Indian cattle. The new Indian minister told the President that there were good milk-producing cattle in this country.

Present at the ceremony were Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia, Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Raul S. Manglapus; Foreign Affairs Counselors Octavio Maloles, Jose Espino, and Benito Bautista; Manuel G. Zamora, Malacañang protocol officer; Jose Estrada, Foreign Affairs protocol officer; and Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo, senior military aide to the President, were also present.

AFTER the ceremony, the President met officials of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company who presented him with the first locally-manufactured Goodyear tire made out of local materials and imported steel and fabric.

The President was elated by the first finished tire product in the Philippines.

The Goodyear officials assured the President that the local tire company could supply 60 per cent of the local demand. They likewise expressed their appreciation to the President for the cooperation extended by government departments and agencies to the factory project and pledged their full support of the nation's expanding industrialization program.

The Goodyear officials who saw the President were R. W. Pockmire, vice-president and general manager; Hans M. Menzi, director; Alfonso Ponce Enrile, director; L. Siguion Reyna, secretary; Neville Cope, financial director; W. Condon, director; N. Nigosian, project manager; R. T. Budd, plant manager; L. G. Lins; C. W. Neuman, sales manager; and F. W. Kitchen, assistant treasurer.

The President also conferred with Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia. It was learned the Chief Executive discussed with the Vice-President the fast-developing international issue on the Spratley Islands, which are being claimed by Tomas Cloma, a Filipino, and three other countries.

At 3 p.m., the President motored out of Malacañang accompanied by his aide, Maj. Jose Estrella. He returned to the Palace early in the evening.

June 19.—THIS morning, the President sent Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon to represent him at the celebration of Rizal's birthday on the Luneta.

A message of the President read by Secretary de Leon stressed the need to emulate Rizal's nationalism.

"For while times have changed and the conditions he condemned no longer exist," the President's speech said, "the lesson he sought to teach us by his life continues to be valid even in our modern day."

On the Luneta this morning, the Jose Rizal Centennial Commission and the National Youth Welfare Council joined hands to launch the "Peso for Rizal" campaign and to present awards to youth leaders.

About 70,000 students from colleges, universities, and high schools in Manila and suburbs recited a pledge of citizenship. Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., formally opened the campaign which will culminate in the celebration of Rizal's 100th birthday in 1961. Secretary De Leon presented certificates and scrolls to 80 youth leaders.

The President was busy this morning going over the report of the Board of Foreign Service on an investigation with respect to certain complaints against consular services in the Philippine Mission in Tokyo, Japan.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today, ordered the immediate transfer and investigation of Consul Agustin P. Mangila of the mission in Tokyo on grounds of inefficiency and failure to discharge efficiently the functions of his office. Mangila's transfer to another post was necessary in view of the importance of the Philippine Mission in Japan, which involves normally a great deal of consular business calling for expert and efficient management.

The President gave these orders after going over the resolution of the Board of Foreign Service, submitting its findings and recommendations with respect to certain complaints against consular services in the Philippine Mission in Tokyo. The resolution, signed by the members of the board, was concurred in by Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia.

The BFS in its lengthy report to the President said that after having considered the premises and the policy of the Administration that all government agencies, including the foreign service, should give prompt attention to all reasonable requests for assistance, service, or protection, resolved the following:

(1) That the consular functions of the Philippine Mission in Tokyo have not been properly handled by the consul in charge.

(2) That there has been marked evidence of inefficiency and ineptitude on the part of the said consul such as to justify either his investigation on grounds of the inefficiency and failure to discharge efficiently the functions of said office and/or his immediate transfer to another post in view of the importance of the Philippine Mission in Japan which involves normally a great deal of consular business which calls for expert and efficient management.

(3) The Board also recommends that the Philippine Minister to Tokyo, the Honorable Jose F. Imperial, and Counselor Eduardo Quintero, coordinator of the various offices of the Mission, be advised to exercise closer supervision over the personnel of the office, particularly those charged with consular functions of the office.

A part of the conclusions arrived at by the Board said that "there was certain laxity in his (Minister Imperial's) supervision and his failure at the opportune moment, to call the attention of the consul over whose functions he has direct supervision on control to these anomalies and delay which are the subject of the complaints."

IN the evening the President said that he favored salary increases and promotions for deserving provincial and municipal treasurers.

The Chief Executive made this statement in brief remarks after the awards ceremony for the outstanding treasurer of the Philippines held at the Malacañang social hall. The affair was held under the auspices of the League of Women Voters of the Philippines.

The Magsaysay trophy went to Gregorio A. Villena, treasurer of Bauan, Batangas, as outstanding municipal treasurer for 1955. Other awards were given to Pedro A. Cabildo, provincial treasurer of Batanes, for the highest percentage of real property tax collections during the calendar years 1953, 1954, and 1955; to Marcelino Sarmiento, city treasurer of Manila, for the highest percentage of real property tax collection for the same period; to Luis C. Monforte, of Cabatuan, Isabela, second place, as the outstanding municipal treasurer; and to Procopio A. Ledina, of Olongapo, Zambales, third place, as outstanding municipal treasurer. Awards were also given to 18 other outstanding municipal treasurers.

The President congratulated the treasurers for their splendid work. He said that in this Administration, merit is the criterion for service. He expressed the hope that the treasurers who had been given awards would continue their good work in order to strengthen the finances of the government.

Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, who spoke earlier before the President had arrived, also congratulated the treasurers for their work. He presented the trophies and the awards to the winning treasurers. Mrs. Louise G. Orendain gave the opening remarks.

IN a speech at the Manila Bay Area Lions Clubs dinner at the Manila Hotel this evening, the President exhorted the nation to adopt the "realistic, constructive, and positive nationalism" of Dr. Jose Rizal to "propel us in the right direction towards the security, the prosperity, and the happiness of our people."

"We can inspire ourselves to solve the problems of the country by recalling the principles of our dear heroes," the President said.

He said that true nationalism gives the people that necessary energy with which to conquer the problems of our times.

At the Lions dinner, the President recalled that Rizal fought the enemies “of his time with the weapons of his time, with the polished satire of the 19th century, seeking thereby not only to awaken the spirit of his own countrymen but also to stir up the sympathy of the most cultured centers of Europe towards the cause of his country’s freedom. Such was the realism of Rizal. Such was the constructive bent of his patriotism. Such was the positive spirit of his nationalism,” the President pointed out in his speech as he led the nation-wide celebration of the 95th birthday of the national hero.

In emulating the principles of Rizal, the President said that “we, like Rizal, learn from the past without reviving the problems of the past and without shadow boxing with the spirit of the vanquished foe.” (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 3212–5214, for the full text of the President’s speech.)

June 20.—EARLY this morning, the President flew to San Fernando, La Union, where he acted as sponsor at the silver wedding anniversary of Rep. and Mrs. Francisco Ortega. The President took off on the presidential plane *Pagasa* from the Nichols Air Base at 6:30 a.m.

At the residence of Rep. Ortega, where he had breakfast, the President discussed with several La Union mayors their respective public works projects and tobacco products.

The President also took occasion to inspect the P1.2-million wharf being constructed in San Fernando. Arriving at the San Fernando airport at 7:30 a.m. after a one-hour trip, the President and his party were met by La Union Gov. Bernardo Gapuz and other provincial officials.

From the airport, the President proceeded to the San Fernando Cathedral, where the wedding anniversary ceremony was held. After the ceremony, the President had breakfast at the residence of Rep. Ortega.

With the President on board the *Pagasa* were Sen. Cipriano Primicias, Rep. Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo, and Rep. Augusto Francisco of Manila. Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo, senior presidential aide, was also with the party. The Chief Executive returned to Malacañang 11 a.m.

THE President today extended the appointment of Internal Revenue Collector Silverio Blaquera for another six months, ending December 31, 1956.

Blaquera was supposed to have been automatically retired from office as he celebrated his 65th birthday this day. Under Republic Act No. 660, government employees reaching the age of 65 are automatically retired.

IMMEDIATELY prior to the Cabinet meeting, the President received members of the Labor-Management Advisory Council of the Department of Labor, headed by its chairman, UE President Francisco Dalupan.

The council requested the President to certify a bill enlarging the composition of the Court of Industrial Relations. This will mean the appointment of more judges and the establishment of more CIR branches.

Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevos, who accompanied the delegation, said that most strikes were recognition strikes. He said the Department of Labor was doing its share in resolving labor problems but that the CIR, owing to lack of judges, could not quite cope with the situation. Adevos said that if the CIR would be expanded, it would be able to work faster and that an estimated one-half of the strikes could be avoided.

The President said that he was going to study their petition very carefully.

Other members of the delegation present were Conrado Benitez, Teofilo D. Reyes, Fernando E. V. Sison, Manuel Diaz, Daniel Me. Gomez, Joaquin B. Preysler, and Ildefonso Remolona. Ciriaco Magsanoc of the Department of Labor was also present.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay and the Cabinet today heard Health Secretary Paulino J. Garcia report on the progress in the treatment of lepers in the Culion Leprosaria.

According to Secretary Garcia, there has been a remarkable decrease of leprosy cases in the Philippines. He said that during the Spanish times, there were 30,000 lepers. This number was reduced to 7,000 before World War II. Now there were only 2,000 lepers with about 400 of them being negative cases, he said.

Garcia pointed out that the Government should now exert efforts towards the socio-economic rehabilitation of the negative cases. He suggested that a concerted study by the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Department of Health, and the community development office should be made towards teaching these negative patients useful crafts and home industries. He added that these negative patients have decided to stick it out in Culion; hence, it was necessary to help them rehabilitate themselves right in that area.

Garcia also reported that he had recently visited Cuyo Island, which has a population of 20,000. This island had been neglected in the past. However, he said that now it has a hospital of 25 beds, one doctor, and four nurses. In addition to these, one rural health doctor would be assigned to that island beginning July this year.

The Cabinet approved the recommendation of Secretary Garcia to take steps towards rehabilitating the negative cases in the Culion Leprosaria.

The President presided over the Cabinet meeting at 11 a.m., immediately upon arrival from San Fernando, La Union. The meeting, held at the family dining room, lasted up to 1 p.m.

Among the things taken up at the Cabinet meeting were:

(1) The President laid down the policy that whenever an office would requests the detail of an employee from another office, the requesting office should pay the salary of the employee during the time that his services are used.

This policy was prompted by a request of the National Development Company to have the Bureau of Plant Industry detail Dr. Eulalio P. Baltazar at the NDC. It was decided that the NDC should pay for the salary and other incidental expenses of Dr. Baltazar while on detail at the NDC.

(2) The President directed that the *Official Gazette* be published fortnightly. Heretofore, the *Gazette* has been published monthly. It was brought to the attention of the Cabinet that the law requires the publication of announcements for bidding in public works projects in the *Official Gazette*. However, it was discovered that because of the present monthly publication of the *Gazette*, some construction projects were being affected.

(3) The Cabinet approved the sale of the Manila Railroad Company lot in Hulo, Mandaluyong, Rizal, containing 30,543 square meters, at P6.75 per square meter, to the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation. The lot is occupied by buildings and shops of the Alto Pipe and Foundry, Inc., which had been acquired by the RFC on Nov. 18, 1954, by virtue of a foreclosure sale.

The Cabinet approved the sale provided that the money to be raised would be used to buy additional rolling stock for the improvement of the MRR and expansion of its services.

During the Cabinet meeting, the President said that he was considering the certification to Congress of a bill to amend the Fertilizer law. The proposed amendment would change some aspects of the law in order to enable small farmers to receive the benefits to be derived from the Fertilizer Law.

June 21.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning received Manila Councilors Antonio Barredo and Eriberto Remigio, who expressed opposition to the appointment of eight additional city councilors in accordance with a new law.

The two Manila councilors, instead, requested the President to recommend to Congress during the special session an amendment to the new law providing for the election of the additional councilors in 1957 to coincide with the presidential election.

Barredo and Remigio said the reasons for their stand were:

- (1) Their suggestion to elect the eight additional councilors in 1957 was more democratic;
- (2) There was not enough space available at present for the additional councilors at the city council room; and
- (3) Lack of funds for the additional councilors.

The President told Barredo and Remigio to discuss their proposal with Manila officials at a breakfast conference on Saturday, June 23. The Chief Executive invited the two councilors to attend the conference in order to expound their views. The breakfast conference on Saturday will be attended by Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson, Vice-Mayor Jesus Marcos Rocas, and Reps. Joaquin Rocas, Arturo Tolentino, and Augusto Francisco. Rep. Angel Castaño is out of town.

Before meeting the Manila councilors, the President received the members of the Senate and the House special notification committees who informed him of the opening of the special session. The Senate committee was composed of Sens. Edmundo Cea, Ruperto Kangleon, and Lorenzo Tañada. The House committee included Reps. Manuel Zosa of Cebu, Eladio Balite of Samar, and Tecla San Andres-Ziga of Albay. The solons arrived at Malacañang at 10:45 a.m. and left 15 minutes later.

Earlier, the President inducted the officers of the National Federation of Tobacco Farmers' Cooperative Marketing Association, Inc., headed by Rep. Manuel Cases of La Union, president. Other officers were Leon Verano, vice-president; and Calixto Mendoza, Faustino Acosta, Floremundo Ostrea, R. G. de Peralta, Antonio Lambino, and Dr. Teodoro Mario, directors.

Members of the Rice Millers Association also called on the President and protested against the grant of more funds to the rice enrichment project of the government. The rice millers claimed that they were also engaged in rice enrichment and the government project was competing with them. The Chief Executive told the rice millers, headed by former Cavite Governor Dominador Mangubat, that he would study the problem.

The President spent most of his time receiving congressmen and governors who followed up requests for aid for their respective public works projects. Among the officials were Sen. Decoroso Rosales; Reps. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz, Godofredo Ramos of Aklan, Erasmo Cruz of Bulacan, Ricardo Ladrado and Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo, Eladio Balite of Samar, Constancio Castañeda of Tarlac, Jose Nuguid of Bataan, Bartolome Cabangbang of Bohol, Vicente Peralta of Sorsogon, Nicolas Escario and Manuel Zosa of Cebu, Jacobo Gonzales of Laguna; and Gov. Juan Triviño of Camarines Sur and his delegation, Gov. Valeriano Gatuslao of Negros Occidental and his delegation, and Gov. Antonio Raquiza of Ilocos Norte.

Another caller of the President was Francisco Enage, chairman of the board on pensions for veterans of the Philippine Revolution, who requested more funds for the board. The Chief Executive assured Chairman Enage that he would discuss with Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona ways to give more funds to the board. Enage, who was accompanied by Speaker Protempore Daniel Romualdez, was congratulated by the President for his "good work" at the board on pensions.

THE President again showed this morning his great aversion to nepotism of any kind when a certain sailor by the name Gregorio Magsaysay called up Malacañang frantically and sought presidential intercession for a few pennies the customs authorities were exacting for four dozen packages of American cigarettes he brought down from the U.S. Navy transport *Braston*.

The caller was a Filipino sailor on the U.S. Navy ship. Obviously he thought that he didn't have to pay duties on the cigarettes he brought down from his ship on the strength of his family name.

When customs agents apprehended the sailor and asked him to pay customs duties, the sailor called up Malacañang over the phone.

"This is Gregorio Magsaysay of the U.S. Navy," the sailor blurted over the telephone.

The mystified Malacañang aide who answered the phone took down obligingly the caller's complaints that he had been deprived of the courtesy of the port after he had identified himself as a "relative" of the President.

The aide rushed to the President in an effort to give immediate redress to the distressed "relative". However, the President was irked by the call and immediately directed Customs Commissioner Manuel P. Manahan by telephone to have the sailor Magsaysay prosecuted for refusing to comply with the customs authorities.

June 22.—AT a breakfast conference this morning, President Magsaysay met with House leaders and members at Malacañang and they agreed:

(1) That the bills vetoed from the last regular session shall be rescreened with a view to having their objectionable features removed and that, if there is time left for their consideration, they shall be submitted to the current special session. Otherwise, it was agreed the rescreened bills shall be given priority in the next regular session.

(2) That the President will meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow with sugar planters to discuss the sugar quota bill with a view to its possible inclusion in the special session agenda. The conference will also be attended by Reps. Godofredo Ramos, Carlos Hilado, Lorenzo Teves, Jose Aldeguer, Eulogio Rodriguez, Jr., Jose Roy, and Pedro Lopez.

Among the vetoed bills to be rescreened are those providing for transfer of public works appropriations from originally-designated projects to new projects. Some authors of these bills argued during the conference that while in some cases the pertinent appropriations had been released for the originally-designated projects, no work had actually been started on them; so the transfer of the appropriations for other projects was still both feasible and legal.

The President instructed Public Works Undersecretary Rafael Contreras, who was present at the breakfast-conference, to review those bills to determine the actual status of the appropriations affected.

It was further agreed not to discuss any tariff legislation until the Senate has disposed of the Japanese peace treaty and the reparations agreement. The President reiterated that either the tariff code or the flexible tariff powers bill was acceptable to him.

The President also scheduled a meeting next week with Congress leaders, including the chairman of the respective appropriations committees, Sen. Gil J. Puyat and Rep. Tobias Fornier, to iron out a few remaining differences on the budget. The urgency of approving the budget as soon as possible was emphasized in view of the imminent close of the current fiscal year.

Before the conference broke up, the President signed a general certification of urgency for all the bills enumerated in the proclamation convening the current special session. This certification will do away with the printing requirements in the consideration of the special session measures.

The conference, lasting from 7:45 to 9:15 a.m., was attended by Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr.; Speaker Pro Tempore Daniel Z. Romualdez; Majority Floor Leader Arturo M. Tolentino; Reps. Joaquin Rocas, Ramon Mitra, Constancio Castañeda, Justino Nuyda, Augusto Francisco, Lorenzo Teves, Lamberto Macias, Reynaldo Honrado, Godofredo Ramos, Jose Puey, Gaudencio Abordo, Ricardo Ladrido, Cesar Fortich, Carlos Hilado, and Jose Nuguid; Public Works Undersecretary Rafael Contreras; and Justice Undersecretary Jesus G. Barrera.

June 23.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay and Manila city officials agreed today to defer indefinitely the selection of the eight additional Manila councilors provided for under a bill approved at the recent session of Congress and signed into law by the President.

This decision was reached at a breakfast conference between the President and city officials after which the Chief Executive met with key legislators in the sugar region and a delegation of sugar planters and discussed with them the need of including Senate Bill No. 375 in the agenda for the current special session.

The meeting with Manila officials, lasting from 8 to 8:50 a.m., was attended by Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson, Vice-Mayor Jesus Roces, Reps. Arturo M. Tolentino and Joaquin R. Roces, and Councilors Eriberto Remigio and Antonio Barredo. Rep. Augusto Francisco, also invited to the breakfast-conference, was reported in the province, and Rep. Angel Castaño, the fourth Manila Congressman, is now abroad.

The agreement reached at the conference was to defer the selection of the eight additional councilors until the return to Manila of Rep. Castaño. Castaño is now abroad working for the expansion of Filipino employment opportunities in the United States and its possessions.

AFTER the meeting with Manila officials, the President sat down with congressmen from the sugar region and sugar planters to discuss the need of including Senate Bill No. 375 in the current special session agenda.

In view of the failure of the conferees to agree on this measure, it was decided to give both the planters and the millers one week's time within which to reach an understanding on the bill. In the absence of such understanding, it was decided that the matter would be thrown entirely to President Magsaysay for decision.

The bill under consideration defines definitively the relationship between millers and planters regarding the milling of the latter's crops. The legislators present at the conference were Rep. Lorenzo Teves of Negros Oriental, Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo, and Carlos Hilado of Negros Occidental, who explained the attitude of the planters towards the bill, and Rep. Pedro Lopez of Cebu who explained the millers' side.

The President told the conferees who met with him from 9:15 to 10:40 a.m. that in formulating their decision on the legislation during the next week, they should be guided not by the selfish interest of either group but by what is fair and just and best for the country.

AFTER the conference, the President motored to Funeraria Nacional to view the remains of the mother of Davao Gov. Alejandro Almendras. The President was accompanied by Press Secretary J. V. Cruz, Col. Salvador Villa of the Manila Railroad Co., and Legislative Secretary Jose Nable. The party was met at the funeral parlor by a sister of Gov. Almendras, who was reported still in Davao preparing to leave for his mother's last rites. The President returned to Malacañang at 11:20 a.m.

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the President motored out of Malacañang, accompanied by Maj. Jose Estrella, his aide. He returned to the Palace early in the evening.

June 24.—IN QUICK succession this morning, President Magsaysay:

(1) Directed Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao to find out who, according to a press statement of Rep. Miguel Cuenco of Cebu, had ordered the survey of Mactan Island in Cebu for alleged activation as a United States military base;

(2) Ordered NAWASA General Manager Susano R. Negado and the NAWASA board to take immediate and proper steps in solving the water problem in Manila to insure city and suburban residents of their potable water supply; and

(3) Told Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona to look for funds to enable the Department of Health to continue with its initially successful research in producing anti-rabies vaccine.

TO the President's directive to Balao, the defense secretary said that a reconnaissance survey had been made of Mactan Island on his (Balao's) initiative and with the cooperation of the former Civil Aeronautics Administrator Urbano Caldoza with the view to studying the potential value of Mactan Island as a possible CAA or Philippine Air Force alternate airport.

Balao said that there were plans of putting up alternate airport for the CAA and the PAF. This was routine work, the defense secretary emphasized, and did not involve definite commitments.

Secretary Balao revealed that the CAA was considering the use of the landing field in Mactan Island, which can accommodate larger type planes when they are available as a better airport than the present one in Cebu City. He pointed out that the present Cebu airport (Lahug Airport) had its hazards and that it was necessary to look for possible landing fields which could be used in case the Cebu airport might have to be transferred.

The President expressed surprise this morning upon reading reports of the survey of Mactan Island for activation as a U.S. military base. The President said, "I have never heard about this thing."

THE President today told Negado and the NAWASA board to exert all efforts in providing sufficient water supply for the people of Manila and the suburbs.

One suggestion given by the President was to connect, whenever possible, artesian wells by means of booster, turbine, or centrifugal pumps to the Metropolitan Water District pipes in order to increase the volume of water supply in the pipes.

The President said that foreseeing this probable water shortage in Manila one year ago, he had told Negado and the NAWASA board to take steps so that the water pipes in Montalban would be connected to the filters. He said that he had repeated this directive about three times but nothing had been done about it. He asked Negado to explain why the directive had not been done.

The President said that when his first directive had not been accomplished, he had suggested the raising of the Ipo dam by two meters which had been done after continuously working on it for about a month.

UPON receiving reports that research work on the manufacture of anti-rabies vaccine might bog down owing to lack of some P30,000, the President told Budget Commissioner Aytona to scrape for available funds to be allocated to this important health project. Believing that the present research being conducted in quest of a vaccine to cure hydrophobia was important in advancing medical science and contributing to the health of the people, the President said if Aytona could not find money for this significant work, he would give the needed amount from his contingent fund to enable Filipino physicians and scientists to complete the "great work" they have successfully begun.

Health Secretary Paulino Garcia said today that as a result of the research work of Dr. Walfredo de Leon, chief of the division of laboratories and research of the Department of Health, and Dr. Rogelio Relova, directly undertaking the research, and their assistants, they were able to produce a vaccine that has already cured two cases which had all the classical symptoms of hydrophobia.

However, Garcia said that although the experiments so far have incontrovertibly proved that pronounced cases of hydrophobia could be cured, it was necessary that more clinical cases be examined to prove the validity of the new medical finding. He was happy to know that the President was giving his full support to the success of the anti-rabies research being conducted by the Department of Health.

MRS. Emiliana Quiatchon de Belandres, late mother of a veteran, got justice today posthumously. President Magsaysay signed an Administrative order dismissing from office Justice of the Peace Ruperto Javier of Villadolid and San Enrique, Negros Occidental, whom Mrs. Belandres had accused administratively of violation of Republic Act No. 145—for excessively charging her for legal services rendered in connection with a claim she had filed with the U. S. Veterans Administration in behalf of her veteran son, Arturo Belandres.

In 1951, Mrs. Belandres sought Javier's aid in obtaining from the USVA the pension for her son. Pending the claim, Javier advanced some money to mother and son, who were in difficult straits. When she finally received her check for P460, Javier collected P150, much in excess of the legal fee of P20 allowed by law for these services.

An investigation by the city attorney of Bacolod in 1952 revealed that Javier had advanced only P60 which, with his P20 legal fee he was legally entitled to collect from her, added up to only P80. Actually, he collected an excess of P70. The city attorney did not press the case against Javier, however, because Mrs. Belandres executed an affidavit saying Javier was returning the excess to her.

A revival of the case before the district judge, however, yielded evidence that Javier had lied before the city attorney when he claimed he had advanced P130 to Mrs. Belandres and that therefore he had collected from her only what was actually due him. The district judge thus found him guilty both of violating Republic Act No. 145 and of lying under oath. The judge recommended his dismissal from the service, which was upheld by the secretary of justice and ordered enforced today by the President.

Javier's claim that Mrs. Belandres had given P150 voluntarily to him was belied by the fact that she had pleaded with him to be allowed to pay the fee he was demanding by installment. Mrs. Belandres died in November 1953.

IN the evening, the President attended a reception that followed the wedding of Arsenio Laurel, son of Sen. and Mrs. Jose P. Laurel, and Maria Paz Rufino, socialite daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vicente Rufino. The wedding was solemnized at the San Agustin church in Intramuros.

The First Lady was one of the sponsors at the wedding. The reception was held at the residence of the bride on Taft Avenue.

June 25.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today directed the National Power Corporation to carry out the rural electrification program of the Administration with electric power from the various government hydroelectric power plants and projects.

The President issued the directive during a talk with Gov. Alejo Santos and some Bulacan mayors and people who complained of the lack of electricity in their barrios. The Chief Executive said electric current would be allocated to towns and barrios from government hydroelectric power plants.

The President said the Ambuklao hydroelectric power project would be sufficient to supply electric power for the towns and barrios of Luzon. In the Bulacan delegation were Mayor Vicente Ramos and farmers from Bustos, and Mayors Felix Reyes of Malolos and Evangelino Mendoza of Bocaue.

Earlier, the President accepted an invitation to be the guest speaker at the convention of the *Panitik Ng Kababaihan* on July 28. Heading the women writers who invited him were Mrs. Nieves Baens-del Rosario and Movie Actress Carmen Rosales.

Another caller of the President was Miguel de los Reyes, Bureau of Internal Revenue regional director in the Visayas. De los Reyes, who conducted an essay contest in the Visayas on *Why We Must Pay Taxes*, was given a presidential trophy by the Chief Executive for the first prize winner in the essay contest.

The members of the Summer Institute of Linguistics also called on the President and submitted a report on their studies of local dialects. Len Newell was the head of the members of the institute.

Other callers of the President included Rep. Jose Roy of Tarlac, Gov. Leon Guinto, Sr., of Quezon, PHILCOA General Manager Benjamin Salvosa, NARIC General Manager Jacinto Gavino, GSIS General Manager R. P. Andal, Architect Juan Napkil, Fr. Jose Rosauo, S. J., and Fr. Pedro Verceles, S. J. The last three callers are members of the executive committee of the 2nd Eucharistic Congress to be held from November 28 to December 2, 1956.

After receiving his callers, the President motored to the Singian Clinic, where he visited Mrs. Luis Serrano, a sister of the First Lady.

MALACAÑANG announced today concurrence by President Magsaysay with the recommendation of PCAC Chairman Frisco San Juan that Acting NARRA General Manager Raoul Beloso be cleared of charges filed against him. Beloso was admonished, however, to be more careful in his official acts in the future.

An administrative complaint was filed against Beloso by Eduardo J. Jalandoni, consisting of three charges. Upon instruction of the President, the PCAC investigated the complaint.

IN the afternoon, after a brief nap, the President went over pending state papers. At 4 o'clock he motored out of Malacañang and returned to the Palace early in the evening. He was accompanied by his aide, Maj. Pat Garcia.

June 26.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning was informed by Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, Sr., that negotiations for more extensive trade with British Commonwealth countries in convertible sterling are now going on.

Governor Cuaderno also said that Philippine trade arrangements with Germany in marks are almost concluded. Cuaderno explained that with the conclusion of the extensive trade negotiations in convertible sterling with British Commonwealth countries, the Philippines will have a much wider trade area.

The President had breakfast with local bank heads, including Governor Cuaderno, with whom he discussed the problems of the local banks. They also took up at the conference ways and means for the local banks to be of more assistance in the economic development of the country.

Present were Alfonso Calalang of the Security Bank and Trust Company, president of the Philippine Bankers Association; Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, Sr.; Sixto Orosa of the Prudential Bank; Manuel Marquez of the Commercial Bank and Trust Company; Arsenio J. Jison of the Philippine National Bank; and Felix de la Costa of the Philippine Bank of Commerce.

THIS morning, President Magsaysay awarded medals to the outstanding barrio lieutenants of the country, including Serapion R. Bauan, most outstanding barrio lieutenant of the Philippines.

The ceremony was held at the Malacañang ceremonial hall, where 28 barrio lieutenants from all over the country assembled for the announcement of the results of the selection and the awarding of medals. Others who were given medals by the President were Godofredo Valer of Camarines Sur, special award; Fernando Gabales of Misamis Oriental, special award; Anselmo E. Donor of Sorsogon, special award; Mariano Novencido of Pangasinan, most outstanding barrio lieutenant for Luzon; Bartolome Cagasan of Iloilo, most outstanding barrio lieutenant for Visayas; and Datu Saoban Muti of Lanao, most outstanding barrio lieutenant for Mindanao.

Serapion R. Bauan, the most outstanding barrio lieutenant of the Philippines, hails from barrio Balite, Batangas, Batangas. The selection was the first to be held in the country and was sponsored by the Philippine Rural Community Improvement Society of which President Magsaysay is honorary president and Sen. Fernando Lopez, president.

After pinning the medals on the winners, the President delivered a brief speech and extolled the part played by rural people in the progress of the country. The President said: "You are the most important people to me and you are my right and left arms because this Administration can only succeed with your full cooperation and support."

Others who spoke at the ceremony before the President were Dr. Deogracias Villadolid, vice-president of the PRUCIS, and Director Manuel Buenafe, member of the board of directors of the society. Mrs. Celito Zamora helped the President pin the medals on the outstanding barrio lieutenants.

The awards ceremony ended the eight-day convention of barrio lieutenants.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this day instructed Agriculture Undersecretary Jaime N. Ferrer to carry out full implementation of Executive Order No. 180 for the eviction by June 30 of alien farm operators from the Mount Data National Park and Central Cordillera Forest reservations.

The same order directed the grant of patents to Filipinos over improved gardens within the area.

The President's order was intended to quell rumors that the date for the eviction of the aliens which was set June 30 has again been postponed. The President denied having approved any such order.

Meanwhile, the Chinese farmers within the two reservations have been personally notified of the last date for their removal. Constabulary troops of the 1st Military Area have been alerted about the date for the eviction of the aliens to guard against any untoward incidents.

Undersecretary Ferrer assured the President that the eviction of the Chinese has been thoroughly studied and that the prosecution of these aliens for any violation of the public land, labor, internal revenue, and anti-dummy laws was being undertaken jointly by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Anti-Dummy Board, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Ferrer also revealed that laborers of the Chinese who can do truck farming will be given opportunity to cultivate the gardens to be vacated by the aliens. These laborers will be helped with ACCFA financial assistance, it was learned.

THE President today was informed by Romblon Gov. Manuel Solidum that a private business firm was willing to invest P500,000 for the operation of the Romblon marble factory and to give 10 per cent of the gross sales as royalty to the government represented by the Cebu Portland Cement Company.

The CEPOC has invested about P1,200,000 for the construction of the marble factory and purchase of the equipment and machinery. According to Gov. Solidum, the private enterprise offering to operate the marble factory was backed by one of the big local banks.

The President told Solidum to discuss the matter further with officials of the CEPOC. Gov. Solidum was among the many callers of the President.

The callers of the President were mostly provincial delegations accompanied by their respective congressmen and governors. Aid for feeder roads for barrios, school houses, artesian wells, puericulture centers, and other public works projects was the common request of the provincial delegations.

Among the provincial callers were some Sorsogon mayors, municipal officials, and barrio lieutenants accompanied by Reps. Vicente Peralta and Salvador Encinas; Cavite residents headed by Gov. Delfin N. Montano and ex-Senator Justiniano S. Montano; Samar municipal officials with Rep. Eladio Balite; Misamis Occidental delegation composed of Gov. Diego Ty Diling; Mayors Filemon Bation of Baliangao, Patricio Atay of Calamba, and Juan Bocayo of Aluran; Hermogenes Caylan, Lauro Kaamino, and Mauro Gapuz; Bulacan delegation with Rep. Rogaciano Mercado; Capiz officials headed by Rep. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing and Gov. Jose Dinglasan; two Quezon delegations of mayors and town officials headed, respectively, by Reps. Leon Guinto, Jr., and Manuel Enverga; Mindoro Oriental group with Gov. Francisco Infantado; another Cavite delegation accompanied by Rep. Jose T. Cajulis; and the Pampanga delegation from the towns of San Luis, San Simon, Magalang, and Mexico with Rep. Emilio Cortez and Mayor Samson Panlilio.

A large delegation of Batangas Provincial High School teachers called on the President and complained that they have not yet been paid their vacation salaries. The teachers were accompanied by Rep. Numeriano Babao, Mrs. Feliciano Leviste, and Provincial Treasurer Leonardo Gutierrez. Gutierrez explained to the President that the

provincial government lacked funds to pay the teachers. The Chief Executive instructed Gutierrez to attend tomorrow's Cabinet meeting so that the problem of the teachers could be discussed and solved.

Another big delegation came from Pasig, Rizal, accompanied by Gov. Isidro Rodriguez. The delegation was composed of tenants who complained against high rental rates charged them for the privately-owned land they were residing in. The President said he would study the matter.

Other callers of the President included Sens. Quintin Paredes, Alejo Mabanag, and Francisco Rodrigo; Reps. Erasmo Cruz of Bulacan, Guillermo Sanchez of Agusan, Lorenzo Teves of Negros Oriental, Ombra Amilbangsa of Sulu, Ramon Tabiana of Iloilo, Wenceslao Lagumbay of Laguna, Paulino Alonzo of Cagayan, Samuel Reyes of Isabela, and Pio Duran of Albay; Gov. Juan Frivaldo of Sorsogon, Judge Higino Macadaeg, ex-Rep. Jose Topacio Nueno, and Juan Collas.

The President inducted Joaquin S. Los Baños of Legaspi, Albay, as member of the Home Financing Commission. Present at the induction were Rep. Duran, Gov. Nicanor Maronilla-Seva of Albay, and Geronimo Vibal.

FOR the first time in many months, the President met newsmen at a merienda conference at the Malacañang dining room this afternoon.

Dressed in *barong Tagalog*, the President greeted the newsmen at the Palace dining room and was surprised to find new faces.

Before starting the press conference, the President called up Susano R. Negado, manager of the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority, who had not shown up at the Palace to explain the delay in the construction of water pipes linking the Balara filters to the Montalban Dam.

It was apparent that the President's temper was at brittle end as he talked to Negado.

"Negado and Mañosa (MWD manager) should work together or I will fire both of them," the President told the newsmen after talking with Negado over the telephone.

The President said that if there should be time left in the current special session of Congress, he would certify a bill "streamlining" NAWASA functions and separating it from the MWD.

It was hinted that Negado and Mañosa were at loggerheads and that strained relations between them brought about the current water shortage.

Asked to comment on a recommendation of Maj. Gen. Joseph Harper, new chief of the Joint U. S. Military Advisory Group, the President said he was in favor of reactivating idle bases if these are necessary to the security of the country.

However, he said, actual decision on this matter should be deferred until "fundamental problems" are resolved by members of the Philippine and the United States panels.

Asked what there "fundamental problems" were, the President said they include questions of ownership, sovereignty, delimitation, and jurisdiction."

The President added that "more bases, more radar stations, more naval installations normally would mean better security for our country," but reiterated that this matter had to wait the settlement of outstanding basic questions.

The President told the newsmen that he would address the Fourth of July celebration at the Independence Memorial Grandstand in connection with the 10th anniversary of Philippine Independence. He said U.S. Vice-President Richard Nixon will also deliver a speech.

Asked if the inclusion of Nixon in the independence program would not violate the celebration's theme, "Positive Nationalism", the President replied: "On the contrary, this is what we mean by "positive nationalism".

Touching on the labor backpay scandal, the President reiterated that it was a basic purpose of his administration to "go after anybody who would undermine the Administration by dishonesty, and to apply to him the full weight of the law."

On the implementation of the government reorganization plans approved at the third regular session of the Third Congress, the President said he would try to exercise utmost caution in carrying out the revamp" because not only efficiency in government operations but also the "right of thousands of government employees to their jobs" are involved in the matter.

He said he will carry out the reorganization piecemeal, starting with the Public Service Commission.

Turning to the question of the men who will be primarily responsible over future relations of the Philippines with Japan, the President confirmed that his choice for first post-war Philippine ambassador to Japan was Ambassador Felino Neri, Malacañang adviser on foreign affairs. He also said he favored Caesar Lanuza, now director of planning of the National Economic Council, to be the Philippine reparations chief in Tokyo.

The President spoke strongly for Col. Antonio Chanco, now chief of the Armed Forces corps of engineers, as excellent material for the reparations commission to be set up in Manila to handle the Philippine end of the reparations agreement. He said Chanco not only had the technical know-how for the job but also had the other qualities necessary for such a delicate position.

Towards the close of the press conference, the President received a telephone call from Rep. Tobias Fornier of Antique, chairman of the House committee on appropriations, who reported that at least 98 per cent of the Executive's original budget recommendations had been kept intact by the Senate-House conference committee on the appropriations bill. The President thanked Rep. Fornier for this accomplishment and asked him to transmit his gratitude to others who had given their support to the Executive's budgetary requests, among them Sen. Gil J. Puyat, chairman of the Senate committee on finance.

June 27.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning instructed Malacañang Legislative Secretary Jose C. Nable to request Congress leaders to give priority to the bill amending the law creating the National Marketing Corporation (NAMARCO). The amendment seeks to authorize the NAMARCO to use part of its gross earnings for operating expenses.

The NAMARCO closed shop last June 6 because of lack of funds to maintain its operations. The sudden lack of funds was due to the big increase in the volume of activities of the NAMARCO. The government corporation helps Filipino retailers in competing with aliens and in implementing the retail trade nationalization act.

The present law authorizes the corporation to spend only P1-million for operational purposes and, according to NAMARCO officials, the amount was not enough to cope with the expanded activities of the corporation. At present, the NAMARCO has 174 general distributors and 88 specific distributors scattered throughout the country compared to the former PRISCO's 61 regional offices and agencies.

BEFORE presiding over the regular Cabinet meeting, the President received Sens. Quintin Paredes and Gil J. Puyat. He asked the latter, who is concurrently acting chairman of the National Economic Council, to expedite the NEC plan to hold public hearings on implementation of the recently enacted law authorizing the President to reduce tariff rates on critical construction materials; such as, cement and steel bars. The President asked that the NEC wind up the hearings within five days and submit its report and recommendations to him immediately afterwards.

The President explained he wanted immediate implementation of the law to relieve shortages in construction materials.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay at the Cabinet meeting today expressed the need for immediate implementation of the policy that the Government should serve the people directly with electric current from its hydroelectric plants without the need of middlemen—meaning private franchise holders—if public interest so required.

The President directed Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason to study if the National Power Corporation could provide electric power directly to the people even in places where utility companies held franchises but sold power at exorbitant rates.

The Chief Executive said it was ironical that in Luzon people who see transmission lines of the Ambuklao hydroelectric plant running over their heads could not be served directly by the Government with the electric fluid generated from the plant primarily intended to serve them.

This matter was brought to the attention of the Cabinet by the President himself because of insistent requests coming from people from various towns for cheaper electric light. The latest of these requests came from the people of Bustos, Bulacan.

The President said, “We had better stop constructing hydroelectric plants if we can not serve the people directly with the electric fluid coming from these plants. How can we succeed in our rural electrification program if we distribute electric fluid through middlemen who then resell it at excessive rates?” he asked.

The President presided over the Cabinet meeting which was held at the family dining room. The meeting started a little before 11 a.m. and continued up to 1 p.m. During the Cabinet meeting:

(1) Health Secretary Paulino J. Garcia submitted to the President a report on the result of the Sulu special vaccination campaign, otherwise known as “Operations Backdoor”, which was conducted from June 3 to June 10, 1956, in order to raise the level of immunity against smallpox, cholera, dysentery, and typhoid in that area. Sulu is considered vulnerable to the introduction of these diseases owing to its proximity to Borneo and the Malay states.

(2) The President received from Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol a report on the condition of the advance reparations equipment received from Japan from 1948 to 1950, which was reported to be deteriorating; and

(3) The President directed Agriculture Undersecretary Jaime N. Ferrer, who was present at the meeting, and ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo, to proceed to Baguio tomorrow to extend assistance to some 900 laborers who will be laid off as a result of the eviction of the Chinese vegetable gardeners occupying public lands and illegally leasing private agricultural lands along the Mount Data National Park and Central Cordillera Forestry Reservation.

Health Secretary Garcia told the President that “Operations Backdoor” was part of a pattern of service being undertaken by his department to preserve and improve the health of the people. The first phase of the campaign in the South, which took place from June 3 to 10 in the municipal districts of Bongao, Simunol, Bato-Bato, and Balimbing, all in Sulu, resulted in 15,568 people vaccinated and inoculated against smallpox, C-D-T, and yaws. Similar campaigns, Garcia added, would be carried in July, August, and September this year.

Garcia said that Sulu Gov. Leon Fernandez and the Phil. Navy contributed to the success of the vaccination work.

Crisol, after investigating the condition of the advance reparations materials received from Japan, informed the President that more than 60 per cent of the materials received in 1949 had already been disposed of. He said the NASSCO has sold more than P10 million worth of these reparations goods to 44 private agencies, including government corporations.

According to Crisol, what remained now of these reparations materials were 2,364 items in 3,173 crates. These include those earmarked for the Armed Forces, consisting of 92 units valued at P434,000; for the Bureau of Education, 128 units valued at P322,000; and for the NASSCO itself.

Following up a directive he issued the day before, the President told Undersecretary Ferrer and ACCFA Administrator Mondoñedo to proceed to Baguio tomorrow to extend assistance to some 900 laborers who will be laid off from their work along the Mount Data National Park and Central Cordillera Forestry Reservation.

The President told Ferrer to propose to give priority to the qualified laborers who will be laid off in acquiring public lands in the area which will be released for vegetable farming, at the rate of one hectare per person.

Mondoñedo was directed to assure these laborers that the ACCFA would give the necessary financing for these vegetable gardens.

The Chinese who will be evicted will be given 60 days within which to remove the improvements they have made on the lands. The eviction of the Chinese was authorized under Executive Order No. 180, which takes effect on June 30.

The Chinese farmers within the two reservations have been personally notified of the last date for their removal. Constabulary troops of the 1st MA have been alerted on the date for the eviction of the Chinese to guard against any untoward incident.

The President and the Cabinet authorized Bureau of Posts Director Felipe Cuaderno to put out a special issue of stamps with the picture of the Santo Tomas University as theme. The stamps will be printed by the *Cour Voi Sier* printing company of Switzerland.

The President also approved the designation of Sen. Jose Locsin as representative of the Philippine Government to the *Asociacion de Medicos de Lengua Espanola*. The request came from Mr. Fernando Marforel of Barcelona, Spain, who wrote the President suggesting the creation of the medical association, one of the principal aims of which was "to realize the importance of the Spanish language" and the designation of a Filipino physician as a representative of the Philippine Government to the association. Health Secretary Garcia endorsed the designation of Sen. Locsin.

The Cabinet, upon recommendation of Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, activated the following officers: Maj. Sabino J. Aguila, Maj. Henry A. Ruff, and Capt. Guillermo V. Reyes, whose services are needed in the Philippine Military Academy.

The Cabinet also approved the invitation of the director general of the police department of Bangkok, Thailand, to the chief of Philippine Constabulary for one officer to be their guest of honor during the annual celebration of Thai Police Day on October 11 to 15, 1956.

The Cabinet also authorized the director of the Bureau of Telecommunications to import directly from Telefonaktiebolaget L. N. Ericsson, Ormbergsvagen 9, Stockholm S. V., Sweden, 600 telephone instruments.

June 28.—THE PRESIDENT this morning directed Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevosos and the Constabulary to investigate complaints of the striking workers at the Rizal Cement Factory in Binangonan, Rizal, that the management was employing security guards with loose firearms and that PC men used "third degree" methods in questioning two strikers.

The two strikers were picked up by the PC in Binangonan in connection with the dynamiting of an intermediate plant of the cement factory last Sunday. According to the strikers, they were made to squat on air. The President expressed concern over the alleged act of the PC, comparing it to Japanese *kempetai* methods.

The Chief Executive immediately ordered PC Chief Brig. Gen. Manuel Cabal to investigate the case. On the complaint of the strikers that company security guards were using loose firearms, the President sent Labor Secretary Adevosos, who accompanied the strikers, to personally look into the matter.

The two strikers who complained against the alleged “third degree” method of the PC were Benjamin Gutan and Lorenzo Magdamo. Antonio Gubar, president of the Rizal Cement Worker’s Union which is affiliated to the FFW, and Ed Nolasco, executive vice-president of the FFW, were also present. The strikers have been on a strike for a month now.

The President also ordered Gen. Cabal to disarm all persons who entered the Dimson land in Dinalupihan, Bataan, without the sanction of the Land Tenure Administration. He directed Commissioner Manuel Castañeda of the LTA not to extend leases to the Dimson estate. The estate, which had been bought by the Government, is a trouble spot where two groups of farmers are fighting for priority to the land.

The President spent another busy morning with callers most of whom were from the provinces. He received his last callers from the towns of Bayambang and Sual, Pangasinan, at 1 p.m.

Numbering about 250, the Pangasinan delegation was headed by Mayors Angelo Tactaquin of Sual and Salvador Quinto of Bayambang. Most of them, farmers and barrio people, requested feeder roads, artesian wells, and school houses from the President. Handwoven hats made out of coconut leaves were presented to the President by Mayor Quinto.

Another large delegation which requested aid for various public works projects was from Nueva Ecija. Heading the delegation were Rep. Celestino Juan; Gov. Amado Aleta; Mayors Nicetas Viesca of San Antonio, Felix Velarde of Jaen, Basilio Manuel of Gapan, Emilio Morales of Gabaldon, and Marcos de la Cruz of Zaragoza; and Dr. Demetrio Belmonte.

Mayor H. Gopez of Porac, Pampanga, also headed a big delegation of farmers and rural people from his town. Upon the request of the Porac farmers, the President instructed NAWASA General Manager Susano Negado to install artesian wells in barrio Manggatia. The Porac group also requested feeder roads and pre-fabricated school houses.

Other provincial delegations which called on the President for public works aid were the Masbate municipal officials, accompanied by Rep. Mateo Pecson; the Iloilo delegation, headed by Rep. Ricardo Ladrido and Gov. Mariano Peñaflorida; and the Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte, farmers with Mayor Constantino Benemerito and ex-Rep. Sixto Brillantes.

Reps. Manuel Zosa and Ramon Durano of Cebu, Alberto Aguja and Carlos Tan of Leyte, Esteban Bernido of Bohol, Jose Aldeguer and Ramon Tobiana of Iloilo, Godofredo Ramos of Aklan Leon Quinto, Jr., of Quezon, and Samuel Reyes of Isabela; Govs. Manuel Solidum of Romblon, Juan Frivaldo of Sorsogon, and Juan Alberto of Catanduanes; Mayor Leroy Brown of Basilan City; and Prof. Alvin Short of the Foreign World University Exchange were among the callers of the President.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today congratulated the student volunteers who worked for one month without pay in the various NARRA resettlement projects for “the wonderful job you did.”

In a brief talk with the student volunteers, the President said that he wanted to see all the settlers happy and contended with enough food, clothing, shelter, and equipment for their farms. “This is my yardstick for measuring service to the settlers,” he said.

The student volunteers, who came from the various universities and colleges, presented a resolution to the President requesting the retention of NARRA General Manager Raoul Veloso. They also expressed their full trust and confidence in Beloso.

The students said in their resolution that while working in the NARRA resettlement projects for one month, they were witnesses “to the tremendous efforts and worthy achievements of the NARRA” They paid tribute to Beloso’s “boundless energy and all-consuming drive.”

The resolution said: "While there have been mistakes in some phases of the NARRA operations, we believe that mistakes are always concomitant with any new venture and that the mistakes were done in good faith and are being corrected as fast as they are brought to the attention of the NARRA management."

The student volunteers were accompanied by Ignacio Debuque, Malacañang technical assistant and chairman of the Consulative Council of Students, which undertook the project. The students were invited by the President to a party he would give in their honor sometime after July 4.

IN the afternoon, the President flashed the green light to NDC General Manager Jose H. Panganiban to negotiate for trans-oceanic vessels from wherever it would be beneficial for the country to acquire them, or from Japan as part of the reparations.

The President's action was prompted by the impending increase in shipping freight rates beginning July 5, this year, as announced by the Associated Steamship Lines. The acquisition of these ocean-going vessels will increase the country's export and import trade.

Earlier, Panganiban in a letter to the President had requested the release of P20 million for the purchase of ships. The NDC manager said that the Philippine Overseas Shipping Act of 1955 provides that the government set aside this sum yearly for five years for the purchase of ocean-going vessels.

President Magsaysay conferred this afternoon with Panganiban, during which he gave the directive to the NDC manager to start negotiations for the acquisition of ocean-going vessels. During the conference, the President was informed that the NDC had received an offer from an American firm to sell five vessels of 10,000 tons each to the Philippine Government. These vessels are comparatively new, having been launched in 1950.

According to the offer, these vessels would be payable, 80 per cent through bond issue and 20 per cent in cash. The Chief Executive told Panganiban to study the offer very carefully.

The President also told Panganiban to confer immediately with Ambassador Felino Neri to explore the possibility of acquiring trans-oceanic vessels from Japan, chargeable against reparations.

MALACAÑANG announced today that July 2 and 3 will *not* be declared official holidays. The only holiday next week will be Wednesday, July 4, Independence Day, which is a regular public holiday.

Malacañang issued this announcement to stop speculation as to whether July 2 and 3 will be declared special public holidays.

June 29.—THE PRESIDENT started the day with breakfast with five congressmen and Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, Sr. Discussed at the breakfast conference were problems affecting the abaca industry and how to solve them. The release of the P18 million balance of the P20 million appropriated for the Abaca Corporation of the Philippines was also taken up. Present at the breakfast were Reps. Pio Duran of Albay, Ramon Durano of Cebu, Lorenzo Teves of Negros Oriental, Francisco Ortega of La Union, and Leon Guinto, Jr., of Quezon.

AFTER the breakfast conference, the President received the members of the board of directors of the NAWASA and told them to patch up the trouble between the two top officials of the NAWASA and the MWD and bring them to work together harmoniously.

The President, referring to NAWASA General Manager Susano R. Negado and MWD Manager Manuel Mañosa, said: "They must work together or I will fire both of them. The national welfare is above anybody."

Led by former Rizal Governor Wenceslao Pascual, chairman, the other members of the NAWASA board who conferred with the President were former Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa, H. R. Reyes, and Cristobal

Santiago. The board directors brought to the attention of the President the problems of the NAWASA and the various conflicts between Negado and Mañosa.

They explained to the President that the delay in the opening of the Montalban water reservoir was caused by the lack of pipes. They said that the delivery of the pipes for the Montalban line had been delayed and the pipes were due in August of this year yet. Orosa presented to the President the draft of a bill proposing amendments to the law creating the NAWASA. Another bill amending the NAWASA law which had been passed by Congress in the last regular session was vetoed by the President. The Chief Executive told Orosa that he would study the new proposed amendments.

IN telling the NAWASA board directors to end the feud between Negado and Mañosa, the President advised the board to do what was correct and not to be afraid of asserting what was right.

Mrs. Bowden Ward, president of the American Legion Auxiliary in the United States, paid a courtesy call on the President, who thanked her for donating P2,000 to the Tala Leprosarium. Contributing to the Tala Leprosarium is the pet project of the American Legion Auxiliary here and the P2,000 donated by Mrs. Ward was taken from the funds of the AL Auxiliary. Mrs. Ward was accompanied by PCAC Chairman Frisco San Juan and local members of the American Legion.

Another caller who paid his respects to the President was Gorden Bain, vice-president of the Northwest Airlines. With Bain were NWA Far East regional manager, Kenneth McKenzie, and NWA Manila manager, Orville Ackre. Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma accompanied the NWA officials.

Among the first callers of the President were officials of Lanao and Cotabato, headed by Sen. Domocao Alonto, Rep. Luminog Mangelen of Cotabato, and Gov. Salvador Lluch of Lanao. The officials discussed with the President the problems affecting their respective provinces.

Government officials and employees graduating from the six-week course for Government Training Officers at the U.P. Institute of Public Administration were presented to the President by Government Training Coordinator Angel Okol. The government officials and employees, numbering 32, were from the various government agencies throughout the country.

In a short talk to the training course graduates, the President said: "Be more efficient because your training will not mean anything if you are not dedicated to your work."

Officers of the Philippine Association Exhibitors in Rolling-Floating Exposition, Inc., also called on the President and informed him of the successful exposition they held recently. The officers of the exposition were Arsenio Luz, Jr., Pedro Cabungcal, and Romeo Gutierrez.

Miss Freda Utley, American writer, also saw the President and noted down his views on the Communists and how the Government fought the Huks.

The President also received Chinese Ambassador Chen Chi Mai, who came with Yu Khe Thai and Peter Lim of the local Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

Other callers of the President included Health Secretary Paulino Garcia, Reps. Ramon Tabiana of Iloilo and Augusto Francisco of Manila, and Gov. Manuel Baretto of Zambales and Leon Fernandez of Sulu.

IN the afternoon, the President received newspapermen on the Congress beat at a merienda at Malacañang. He exchanged views with the newsmen and sought their cooperation in some "off the record" items.

IN the evening, the President forwarded to Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason the report of Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez on the case of National Treasurer Vicente Gella for study and recommendation.

The President asked Secretary Tuason to determine if there was ground to suspend Gella, based on the facts of the case.

The President also directed this evening Secretary Tuason and Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez to sit down with the committees on agriculture of both Chambers of Congress and study with them the pending nickel bill with a view to eliminating defects in the bill.

The Chief Executive said that he was considering seriously the certification to Congress of necessary legislation to implement the Krivenko decision of the Supreme Court.

June 30.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning received American financiers, B. J. Klarman and W. Mullins, who were invited by Filipino businessmen for possible business investments here.

Klarman and Mullins told the President they were looking into several investment prospects. The American businessmen were accompanied by M. Acuña and O. Varona.

Earlier, the President met former Rep. Leon Cabarroguis of Nueva Vizcaya, who accompanied a mayor from his province. The mayor requested aid for the public works projects in his town.

AFTER receiving his visitors, the President retired to his bedroom and went over the morning papers. Then he worked on pending state papers. He devoted the rest of his time to the drafting of his Fourth of July speech.

IN the afternoon, after a short nap, the President motored out of Malacañang for his usual Saturday afternoon relaxation. He was accompanied by his aide, Maj. Pat Garcia.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Official Month in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52 (6), cclv-ccxcviii.

Official Month in Review: July 16 – July 31, 1956

July 16.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning called a breakfast conference of officials concerned with threshing out problems connected with the operation of the Veterans Memorial Hospital. He called the conference in view of complaints recently aired by patients and reports that sums appropriated by the U. S. Congress for the VMH had reverted because of faulty implementation.

During the conference, John Cooper, regional manager of the United States Veterans Administration, said that contrary to reports, it was not true that about P23 million had reverted to the United States treasury because of faulty implementation of the policies governing the Veterans Memorial Hospital.

He explained that the money allegedly reverted was being spent for an extended five-year period of hospitalization of Filipino veterans after the original five-year grant. He pointed out to the conferees that it was through President Magsaysay's efforts that the extension of the five-year period of hospitalization had been approved.

With regard to the complaint of VMH patients brought to the attention of Rep. Bartolome Cabangbang of Bohol, chairman of the House committee on veterans affairs, Cooper said that Col. Roman Salacop, VMH director, could authorize the payment of return transportation of patients on "disciplinary discharge" to their homes.

Cooper also said that Col. Salacop could authorize the treatment of patients who are on "no bed occupancy" status. These patients are those who do not stay in the hospital permanently but are being treated from time to time.

Mr. Cooper brought to the attention of President Magsaysay and Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao the difficulty being encountered by military personnel in paying their insurance premiums with the National Service Life Insurance. According to the new procedure, insurance premiums of soldiers cannot be automatically deducted from their salaries. As a result of this new ruling, soldiers out in the field cannot pay their premiums, as they cannot personally make their payments, to their prejudice.

The President told Secretary Balao to look into the matter and confer with Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona in order to seek remedial measures.

Those who attended the conference presided over by the President were Cooper, Balao, Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez (chairman of Senate committee on defense and security), Rep. Cabangbang, Frisco San Juan (council member for the Philippines of the World Veterans Federation), Ambassador Felino Neri, Fred Ruiz Castro, who had made studies on veterans problems, especially in his last trip to Washington, D. C., and Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, who had probed the complaints of the VMH patients.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay will deliver brief remarks at the kick-off program of the 1956 Anti-Tuberculosis Fund Campaign on August 18 at Malacañang.

The President accepted the invitation of the officers of the Philippine Tuberculosis Society who called on him this morning. During the call of the anti-TB officers, the President signed a proclamation designating August 19 to September 30, 1956, for the 1956 anti-TB fund drive.

Officers of the Philippine Tuberculosis Society who saw the President were Doña Julia Vargas de Ortigas, president; Gen. Basilio Valdes, vice-president; Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, Sr., general chairman of the fund drive; Dr. Sixto Orosa, vice-chairman; Mrs. Geronima T. Pecson, Mrs. Nini Quezon Avanceña, Manuel J. Gonzalez, and Dr. Miguel Cañizares, directors; and Pedro Lopez, executive secretary.

The President will also be the guest at the kick-off program of the Sight Saving Week which will be held on August 1, 1956. Officers and members of the Sight Saving Week executive committee who invited the President were Henry Tang, chairman; John Wallace, vice-chairman; Dr. Socorro Espiritu, secretary; Miss Cita Trinidad, Eriberto

B. Misa, Francisco “Koko” Trinidad, Dr. Jose N. Cruz, Nestor Trapaga, Amando Villarica, Dr. Jose Santillan, Msgr. Francisco Avendaño, and Buhay G. Hernandez, members.

A delegation of labor and management representatives of the pearl button industry also saw and appealed to the President to prohibit the exportation of raw materials used in the manufacture of pearl buttons. The delegation told the President that several button factories had closed and others were working only part time because of the lack of raw materials. The labor representatives complained that their workers have suffered from the lack of work and most of them have been unable to earn a regular livelihood.

The management representatives pointed out that the lack of raw materials would cause the pearl button industry to fall short of the quota to the United States by 50 per cent this year. The President told the pearl button delegation that he would discuss their petition with the Cabinet.

The pearl button industry delegation was composed of Serafin Acuestas and Pedro Brocal of the Shell-Craft Employees’ and Laborers’ Union; H. Swiryn, vice-president of Shell-Craft and Button Corporation; Donato Pangilinan, Jr., vice-president of the Manila Pearl Button Corporation; Dr. M. G. Virata, president of M. G. Virata Button Factory; Jose Olivares, president of the Ocean Pearl Button Company; and Luis R. Concepcion, Manuel Bautista, Ramon Ubaldo, Rodolfo Cruz, and Geronimo Puzon.

Members of the Tarlac Free Farmers Union also called on the President and requested the expropriation of the 352-hectare Hacienda Armando Lim in San Miguel, Tarlac. The farmers complained that what was preventing the expropriation of the hacienda was a certification by former Agriculture Secretary Salvador Araneta that the farm would be mechanized. The President directed Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez to withdraw the certification. He assured the farmers that the hacienda would be expropriated by the governments.

Tenants of the Meralco lot in Pasig, Rizal, belonging to the Pasig Line Neighborhood Association who were told to evacuate the lot by the Meralco, also came to Malacañang and sought the help of the President. The Chief Executive said that he would take up their case with H. D. Reyes of the Meralco.

Msgr. Francisco Avendaño accompanied the Vietnamese cultural mission and ping-pong players who paid their respects to the President. The Vietnamese cultural mission was composed of students and the ping-pong players are here for a tournament.

Members of the Parents-Teachers Association of the Isabelo de los Reyes Elementary School in Manila requested financial aid from the President for the construction of a new concrete school building. The PTA members were headed by Antonio Valeriano, president and Jacinto Bautista, principal of the school.

Retired U.S. General Russell L. Maxwell, vice-president of the American Machinery and Foundry Company in New York, was another caller of the President. He told the President that the late General Vicente Lim was his classmate in the U. S. Military Academy at West Point. Gen. Maxwell, who came with his wife, delivered to the President a letter from retired General Walter Bedell Smith.

Other callers of the President included Datu Mantil Dilangalan of Cotabato and Mayor Ignacio Aquino of Sison, Pangasinan, and his delegation. Mayor Aquino requested artesian wells for the barrios of his town.

July 17.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning received Rep. Diosdado Macapagal of Pampanga, who accompanied a big delegation of barrio lieutenants and parent-teacher association members headed by Mayor Mariano Sagad of Lubao and Supervising Teacher Andres Cordova of Lubao. The delegation requested the President to give their barrios pre-fabricated school houses.

The President also received a delegation of northern solons composed of Sen. Quintin Paredes and Reps. Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur and Manuel Cases of La Union. They asked the President to extend the electric power from the Ambuklao hydroelectric plant to Northern Luzon provinces in order to industrialize the region.

Rep. Crisologo said that as the hydroelectric plant was situated in Northern Luzon, at least 20 per cent of the electric fluid should be distributed in that region. The President said that he favored the suggestion but that he would study its implementation. Also in the delegation was former Rep. Domingo Siazon and former Governor Vicente Formoso.

As the President was receiving callers, he ordered the air-lifting of one Aurea Cabayu, a polio case, from Tuguegarao, Cagayan. The President was informed of the case by the chief of the Cagayan provincial hospital, Dr. Victor Abastillas.

The President also received a delegation of the Federation of Coconut Planters which was accompanied by Rep. Leon Guinto, Jr., of Quezon, who represented Gov. Juan Triviño of Camarines Sur, president of the federation.

The delegation requested the President to certify a bill to Congress condoning the payment of all unpaid taxes of coconut producers. The President said he would study the matter. He also said he would suggest to the Philippine National Bank board of directors to review the loan value of coconut plantations in order to help coconut planters.

Others in the delegation were Rep. Lamberto L. Macias of Negros Oriental, regional directors; B. Guiang, vice-president for Mindanao, Luis D. Clemente, executive secretary; Benjamin Salvosa, PHILCOA general manager; Wilfredo Reyes of PHILCOA; and A. Anonas, secretary of the PHILCOA board.

The President received his callers at the study room beginning past 9 a.m. up to about 12 noon. The callers consisted mostly of senators, representatives, and governors, most of whom accompanied delegations requesting presidential aid in their respective districts, such as the giving of pre-fabricated school houses, repair of school houses, and irrigation systems.

Other callers of the President included Sen. Decoroso Rosales, who accompanied Gov. Fernando R. Veloso, Mayor Ildefonso Abancio of Calbiga, president of the mayors' league, and other Samar officials; Rep. Reynaldo Honrado of Surigao, who accompanied Mayor Adela Serra Ty; Reps. Gaudencio Abordo of Palawan, Salvador Enciñas and Vicente Peralta of Sorsogon, Panfilo Manguera of Marinduque, Felipe Garduque of Cagayan, Conrado M. Morente of Mindoro Oriental, Samuel Reyes of Isabela, Emilio Cortes of Pampanga, Apolinario R. Apacible of Batangas, Pedro G. Trono and Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo, and Ombra Amilbangsa of Sulu.

The President also received Gov. Rafael Lazatin of Pampanga, who accompanied a delegation composed of barrio principal teachers, and Gov. Marcos Malupa of Batanes.

Other callers included former Sulu Governor Gulamu Rasul, Col. Jose Rueda, and Mayor P. Dumlao of Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya, who accompanied municipal councilors of his town.

Malacañang decided today to give due course to Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason's recommendation for the denial of a petition to transfer former Secretary Oscar Castelo from the penitentiary in Muntinlupa, Rizal, to Camp Murphy, Camp Crame, or "any other place" for his safety.

The petition had been filed by Mrs. Castelo in behalf of her husband, now confined in Muntinlupa awaiting Supreme Court review of a death sentence imposed on him for the murder of Manuel Monroy.

Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon was preparing a letter to Mrs. Castelo denying her petition.

IN the afternoon, the President met the members of the Manila and foreign press at his weekly merienda press conference in the family dining hall at Malacañang.

He was in high spirits and despite promptings of newsmen on his political plans in 1957, he succeeded in dodging the question.

Asked whether or not he was running for re-election in 1957, the President smiled and answered the newsmen, "Maybe yes or maybe no."

The President told the press conference that he would revamp his Cabinet to give it "more drive" in the implementation of the Administration's program of rural development and social justice.

He announced the plan to overhaul the Cabinet after he was informed that Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez intended to retire from the government shortly.

Reacting to the information, the President told the newsmen, "In that case I will revamp my Cabinet."

The President also said he would start the reorganization of the government with the revamp of the Public Service Commission after the special session of Congress.

The President disclosed to newsmen that Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason had repeatedly asked for his relief as head of the Department of Justice, but that he has been prevailed upon to stay in the Cabinet.

"Tuason is well respected," he told newsmen.

The President indicated anger at the failure of the Public Service Commission to cope with its work. He told newsmen at the press conference that he would "kick out the deadwood" from the commission.

The Chief Executive was disturbed by reports that the PSC refused to act on a petition of an electric power plant for the reduction of its rates.

The President said the commission should take into account the interests of the consumers and should act expeditiously on petitions of power plant owners for the reduction of their rate charges.

The President also received the officers of the National Press Club and accepted their invitation to attend the awarding of prizes to the outstanding Philippine journalists for 1955, to be held at a dinner at the NPC building on July 28.

July 18.—WEDNESDAY being regular meeting day of the Cabinet, the President did not receive callers this morning.

The only caller who was able to see the President before the Cabinet meeting at 9 a.m. was Dean Vicente Sinco of the U.P. College of Law and member of the Central Bank Monetary Board.

Sinco, it was learned, explained to the President that large amounts of dollars are being granted to outgoing travelers.

During his conference with Sinco, the President indicated that he will name R. Marino Corpus as head of the foreign exchange department of the Central Bank.

THE President and the Cabinet at their meeting this day approved the reduction of the present tariff rate on Portland cement by 63 per cent in order to ease the acuteness of cement supply and to enable construction work throughout the country to continue unimpeded.

Also approved at the Cabinet meeting were:

(1) The sale of the CEPOC cement plant in Bacnotan, La Union, and the Romblon Marble Works in Romblon;

(2) A directive to Defense Secretary Eulogio Bulao to take steps towards prosecuting guilty cadets and graduates of the Philippine Military Academy for inflicting serious physical injuries as a result of hazing brutalities;

(3) Expanded government housing projects in the provinces by acquiring a big tract of land in Iloilo, and increased housing facilities near Manila by the acquisition of more lots in Quezon City;

(4) The release of a bond issue of P123 million for irrigation projects;

(5) The transfer of the functions of the Fiber Inspection Service from the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources to the Department of Commerce and Industry, without any change in personnel; and

(6) The draft of an executive order amending a previous one on the prohibition and restriction of the practice of nepotism in government offices.

The meeting which was held at the family dining room lasted from about 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It was presided over by the President.

The meeting was also attended by Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, who submitted to the President his report on the 83 BIR administrative cases and the activities of the Bureau of Civil Service in disposing of administrative cases referred to it for action and decision.

During the Cabinet meeting, the President also inquired from Defense Secretary Balao the results of the investigation of the alleged looting of sitio Pinagsabiran in Tanay, Rizal. The President told Balao to find out if the soldiers, aside from burning a house, had also eaten the dogs, pigs, and chickens of the barrio people as charged and to make immediate restitution of this vandalism.

In submitting its recommendation to the President on the reduction of tariff on cement by 63 per cent, the NEC said it had conducted investigations and held hearings at which representatives of producers, consumers, and importers of the construction materials listed in Republic Act 1490 were given opportunity to express their views.

The NEC added that the hearings tried to establish the total demand for the materials, the part of this demand that is supplied by local production, the stocks held by importers, and the prospective arrivals of imports during the remaining months of 1956.

In this connection, the President told Undersecretary Crisol, who is also a member of the NASSCO board, not to raise the price of NASSCO steel rods to more than 43 centavos a kilo. The President also directed that all orders of the NASSCO for the importation of pig iron should be cancelled and that it should step up its production of steel bars.

The President directed Juan Concon, acting economic coordination administrator, to advertise immediately the sale of the CEPOC plant in Bacnotan, La Union, and the Romblon Marble Works. This step is further implementation of the government's policy to pull out gradually from business enterprises.

Regarding the investigation of hazing at the PMA, the President with the concurrence of the Cabinet directed Secretary Balao to take steps towards instituting criminal charges in civilian courts for inflicting serious physical injuries against PMA cadets, including those who have been already graduated from the academy. Balao said court-martial proceedings prescribe against guilty parties after the lapse of two years. Therefore it was decided to file the charges against guilty PMA graduates with the civilian courts.

The President also told Balao to approve the resignations of PMA cadets Eduardo Borromeo and Marcelino Abunda, who offered to resign because they had allegedly "lost interest in a military career" after having been hazed in Fort William McKinley. These two cadets had refused to talk before the President when he inquired from them the details of the hazing inflicted on them.

The expanded housing projects of the government received a boost when the Cabinet approved the acquisition by the PHHC of a big piece of land totalling 208,876 meters in Iloilo City. Of this area, 10,000 square meters have been donated to the government.

The Cabinet was informed that PHHC was implementing full blast the President's order of undertaking simultaneously housing projects in the provinces. The PHHC reported that bids for the Cebu City project have already been opened and were about to be awarded. The road construction for the Tagaytay City project has been started and plans for the Tacloban City and Roxas City projects on sites already acquired have been completed with construction about to be advertised for bidding.

The PHHC also reported that a ten-hectare site in Bacolod City had been recently donated by former NEC Chairman Alfredo Montelibano and that plans for the construction of houses were already underway.

The Cabinet approved the acquisition of a lot with an area of 74,528 square meters in the Piedad estate in Quezon City. This new acquisition will provide greater housing facilities for the low-income bracket in sub-urban areas and ease up congestion in the city of Manila.

The President, with the approval of the Cabinet, ordered the immediate issuing of bonds in the sum of P123 million in order to set underway the irrigation program of the government. This program of the government has priority among the other projects in order to make the country self-sufficient in rice. The President said that upon completion of these irrigation systems, it would not be necessary to import rice in the future.

It was made clear at the Cabinet meeting that the Fiber Inspection Service would not be abolished, but that the office would be transferred from the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources to the Department of Commerce and Industry, in accordance with the government reorganization plan. It was pointed out that this office was very necessary in connection with the regulation, inspection, and control of abaca to be exported abroad. World buyers of abaca represented by the Manila Hemp Association of London, Great Britain, and the Hard Fibers Association of New York, U.S.A., had been misled into thinking that this office would be abolished and had asked that the alleged abolition be reconsidered.

Among the revisions in the executive order prohibiting and restricting the practice of nepotism was that city governments and other corporations, which were not previously affected, should be covered by the scope of the order. In its present form, the new order restricts the practice of nepotism in all branches, agencies, and instrumentalities of the government so as to achieve the desired results.

Another important provision is that the prohibited degree of relationship within which nepotism would lie is expanded from third to fourth degree, considering the closeness of family ties among Filipinos. The prohibition also extended emphasis to cases where superior-subordinate relationship is created.

Other provisions of the executive order will be announced upon its signing by the President.

Undersecretary Crisol, overall performance officer of the President, reported to the Chief Executive the status of the 83 Bureau of Internal Revenue cases which have been under consideration for sometime.

Crisol explained that the Bureau of Internal Revenue had already decided five cases with 13 more pending decision; 14 cases are still being prepared for transmittal to the bureau, six are being formally heard, five are scheduled for formal hearing, and 24 have been dropped by the Department of Finance for lack of evidence. He added that two criminal cases are still pending, 11 are still under preliminary investigation and three have not yet been forwarded by the BIR to the Department of Finance.

Crisol also reported to the President that from June 30, 1935, up to June 11, 1956, the Bureau of Civil Service had disposed of 2,502 administrative cases, rendered legal opinions on 385 cases, and acted on 4,201 miscellaneous

matters. He further said that as of June 11, only 439 administrative cases, five legal opinions, and 93 miscellaneous matters were pending in that bureau.

The President commended Civil Service Commissioner Amado del Rosario for exerting great efforts in disposing of these cases in his bureau despite the lack of personnel and assistance. Only 15 legal assistants are employed in the bureau to handle these cases.

The Cabinet also approved Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason's recommendation to designate Justice Roberto Concepcion of the Supreme Court as the Philippines' nominee to the International Law Commission of the United Nations. The commission meets two months in a year.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay held a conference this afternoon with Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason and Solicitor General Ambrosio Padilla on the Supreme Court decision granting bail to former Manila Councilor Amado Hernandez.

The conference arrived at the conclusion that a motion for reconsideration of its decision to grant bail should be filed with the high tribunal.

Accordingly, Secretary Tuason and Solicitor General Padilla advised the President they would prepare the necessary motion for reconsideration.

July 19.—AN UNSUSPECTING postman in San Juan, Rizal, was surprised early this morning when somebody called up the San Juan town hall by telephone and said: "President Magsaysay wants to see the postman who delivers letters on Ortega Street."

The postman was fetched by a motorcycle cop and upon reaching Malacañang was brought inside the room where the President was receiving callers.

In a short while, the letter carrier was face to face with the President, still not knowing why he had been called by the Chief Executive whom he was meeting for the first time in his life.

When the President called up Director Felipe Cuaderno of the Bureau of Posts by telephone and told him to give the postman a promotion he was still in a state of surprise.

The postman is Pedro Villegas, 46, who came to Manila from Batanes, way up north, in 1929 and who has been a government mail carrier for 10 years now.

The postman was brought to the attention of the President by a columnist in one of the daily morning newspapers who, without mentioning the postman's name, called him "a perfect public servant . . . a sincere little man doing his job, and a bit more as well as he knows how . . . incomparably superior to the general type of government employee."

The next morning after reading the column, the President ordered his aides to locate and determine the name of the postman and "bring him to me."

That was how Pedro Villegas, who wore a soiled khaki suit and a pair of rubber shoes when he was brought to Malacañang, got promoted.

Villegas has been a postman in San Juan for the past four years and, before that, had been a postman in Quezon City for six years. He lives in a barong-barong along Highway 54 in Quezon City with his wife and two sons, the oldest of whom is a second year high school student.

Villegas went as high as first year high school and speaks fair English. He had been a houseboy, salesman, tailor, and farmer.

When he was called by Malacañang, he was busy sorting his mail before going out on his own bicycle to deliver letters along his assigned route.

As a postman, Villegas earns P120 a month. When asked by the President how he felt at being promoted, he said: "I am just doing my best, sir, in order to stay in the service and be able to send my sons to higher institutions of learning. Besides, I want to retire and collect my retirement insurance."

Villegas said he did not know that his efficiency and good nature had been the subject of a newspaper column. "I do not have enough time to read the papers because by the time I get home at five in the afternoon I am dead tired from cycling around my route."

The President was told by Director Cuaderno that Villegas would be promoted and assigned to the main office of the Bureau of Posts.

THE President today, gave P100 to the mother of hazing victim Ramon Doreza, a PMA plebe, following receipt of a letter from the latter who sought the Chief Executive's help.

Doreza, who is now convalescing at the V. Luna General Hospital, said in his letter that his mother Emilia Doreza, together with a cousin, had incurred debts in coming to Manila and were hard up for subsistence and traveling expenses.

The President ordered Miguel D. Velasco, Malacañang technical assistant on finance, to give him P100, charging it to his salary.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today ordered Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez to proceed to Bulacan, Bulacan, to look into, and settle the complaint of, small fishermen that the shoreline of Manila Bay along Bulacan was being converted into fish ponds by big private fish-pond owners.

The President also directed the PC chief, Brig. Gen. Manuel Cabal, to station Constabulary soldiers in the area to prevent unauthorized construction of private fishponds.

Secretary Rodriguez, Agriculture Undersecretary Jaime Ferrer, and Lands Director Zoilo Castrillo were ordered by the President to study the legal aspects of the case and file charges against those who constructed or were constructing fishponds in the area without permit from the officials concerned.

The Chief Executive was angered by the complaint of the Bulacan small fishermen who were accompanied by Bulacan Mayor Artemio Meneses. About 100 of the town's small fishermen complained that big private fishpond owners were again constructing fish ponds along the shoreline.

The President recalled that he went to Bulacan personally and spoke to the small fishermen on board a boat in the middle of the sea about a year ago. He had ordered the cancellation of permits for the construction of fishponds in the area.

The small fishermen complained that if the area were converted into fishponds, they would lose their only means of livelihood. The President assured the small fishermen that those who were constructing fishponds without permits would be thrown out and accused before the courts.

The Bulacan small fishermen reported that stones were being used for building dikes. The President ordered the Constabulary to stop anybody constructing fishponds without a permit.

The fishermen were among the numerous callers of the President, who spent up to past noon receiving delegations.

The President directed Assistant Executive Secretary Mariano Yenke, Jr., to look into a complaint of oppression against Ruben Villaluz, acting chief of the Motor Vehicles Office. Juan Pajaro Tongson, an employee of the MVO, called on the President and complained that he had been a victim of oppression by Villaluz, who demoted him (Tongson) from supervisor to a mere agent without any cause. Tongson was accompanied by ex-Mayor Apolonio Castro of Laoag, Ilocos Norte, and Santos Agbayani.

Members of the Board of Trustees of the Music Foundation of the Philippines requested the President to approve the release of the initial amount for the expenses of the foundation. Out of P100,000 appropriated by Congress for the foundation, the President has approved the release of P50,000.

On the same occasion, the music foundation officials entertained the President with a couple of arias from the Tagalog opera *Noli Me Tangere* composed by Prof. Felipe Padilla de Leon. The arias, *Sisa* and *Maria Clara's Song*, were sung respectively by Miss Fides Santos Cuyugan and Miss Pilar Mariño in the music room of Malacañang.

Accompanied by Reps. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing and Ramon Mitra, the music foundation officials who called on the President were Miss Jovita Fuentes, Mrs. Evelina Kalaw-Katigbak, Prof. and Mrs. Felipe Padilla de Leon, Miss Lucrecia Kasilag, Miss Liwanag Cruz, and Mrs. Leonor Orosa-Goquinco.

A group of Bataan provincial and municipal officials requested aid for the completion of various public works projects in their province. Among those in the delegation were ex-Governor Adelmo Camacho, Provincial Board Members Faustino Vigo and Raymundo Galicia, Mayors Lorenzo Bongco of Orani, Lorenzo de la Fuente of Abucay, and Federico A. Muli of Dinalupihan, and Provincial Treasurer Ramon Dado.

Other provincial delegations which called on the President for barrio roads, artesian wells, school houses, and other public works projects were Cabuyao, Laguna, residents accompanied by Rep. Jacobo Gonzales and Mayor H. Alimagno; two groups of Quezon municipal mayors and councilors with Reps. Leon Guinto, Jr., and Manuel Enverga; another group of Bataan residents with Rep. Jose Nuguid; Pulilan, Bulacan, delegation headed by Mayor Juan Espino; councilors of Balayan, Batangas, with Mayor Luis Ramos; another Batangas group with Mayors Bonifacio Masilongan of San Jose and Luis Gutierrez of Alitagtag; Makati, Rizal, delegation with Mayor Max Estrella; and Mayor Lorenzo Belarmino of Sta. Cruz, Marinduque, and his delegation.

Among the other callers of the President were Sens. Francisco Delgado and Jose Locsin; Reps. Luminog Mangelen of Cotabato, Carlos Hilado of Negros Occidental, and Wenceslao R. Lagumbay of Laguna, and PHHC General Manager Vicente Orosa.

THIS afternoon the President met with top Department of National Defense and Armed Forces brass to discuss counter-measures against an anticipated upsurge in Huk subversive activity—known otherwise as the “legal” or “parliamentary” struggle.

The Armed Forces officials sought the meeting with the President to advise him that they were intensifying counter-subversion measures owing to indications that the Communists will step up the legal struggle.

They informed the Chief Executive that they were throwing extra men and resources into the anti-subversion campaign even if this meant sacrificing the needs and requirements of other agencies of the Armed Forces. They added it was absolutely necessary to exercise extraordinary vigilance lest all the gains that had been made in the anti-Communist campaign over the past six years be lost.

The President agreed that the present situation called for maximum vigilance and expressed the hope that the Armed Forces will be able to check the legal struggle despite extreme difficulties.

Those who saw the President during the two-hour conference from 4 to 6 p.m. were Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Maj. Gen. Alfonso Arellano, Col. Nicanor Jimenez (G-1 chief) and Col. Ricardo Papa, deputy Constabulary chief.

EARLIER, the President said he will certify to the current special session of Congress a bill, drafted and recommended by Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, increasing the penalty for rebellion to life imprisonment or death.

The Chief Executive, after conferring with Secretary Tuason on features of the bill, expressed hope that the current special session will be able to act on the legislation even within the brief time left to it. He said the country was faced with a difficult situation "involving the security of the state."

The President said notwithstanding the presentation of this new legislation "we still have every hope that we will obtain reconsideration of the Supreme Court decision." He was referring to the Slate's motion to reconsider the high court resolution granting bail to Amado Hernandez, convicted Communist.

The bill seeks to amend Articles 134 and 135 of the Revised Penal Code by increasing the penalty for rebellion. As provided for in the new bill, the leader or leaders of a rebellion shall suffer a penalty of from *reclusion perpetua* to death and the other participants shall suffer a penalty of from *prision mayor* in its maximum period to death. They will also be liable to fines not exceeding P20,000.

A final provision in the proposed legislation says:

"Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, prosecution and punishment for rebellion or insurrection as herein defined shall be without prejudice to the prosecution and punishment for common crimes against personal liberty and security, property, persons, and chastity, as defined in this Code, whether committed in the course or in furtherance of the rebellion or insurrection, or otherwise. Prosecution for said common crimes may be instituted in either the same information for rebellion or in a separate proceeding, and the appropriate penalty shall be imposed independently of the penalty for the crime of rebellion."

July 20.—FOR breakfast guests this morning, the President had a full delegation composed of congressmen and top officials of Leyte. The group reiterated their pledge to support the speedy implementation of the President's rural development program. They also requested funds for their respective districts.

Present during the breakfast which lasted from 8 to 9 a.m. were Speaker Protempore Daniel Z. Romualdez; Gov. Bernardo Torres; Reps. Alberto Aguja, Carlos Tan, and Francisco Pajao; Provincial Board Members M. Veloso and N. Romualdez; Ormoc City Mayor Potenciano Larrazabal; District Engineer Catalino Paraiso; and Dr. Isidoro Madlangbayan, acting chief of the Leyte Provincial Hospital.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today accepted an invitation to speak at the graduation exercises of the Harvard University advance management program in Baguio City on August 18.

The invitation was tendered to the President by the Harvard faculty members and the graduating students. Among the advance management program students who invited the President were Mariano V. del Rosario, Oscar Arellano, Jose Ma. Ansaldo, and Ramon del Rosario.

Col. Salvador Villa, Manila Railroad Company general manager, is also a member of the advance class. Other class members include businessmen and government officials from Asian countries.

Dr. Harry L. Hanson, head of the Harvard faculty group, expressed hope that the class would be a continuing program in Baguio City. He said that Baguio was a very ideal place.

Aside from Dr. Hanson, who teaches marketing, the other Harvard University faculty members who were in the group and the respective subjects they teach were Prof. Charles Williams, finance; Prof. Frank Folts, production; Prof. Steve Fuller, human and labor relations; and Prof. George Smith, business policy.

AMONG the early callers of the President were GSIS General Manager Rodolfo P. Andal and Francisco Ortigas, who discussed insurance and social security matters with the Chief Executive.

A group of Liberal Party men from Buruanga, Aklan, also called to complain to the President that the public high school in their town had been ordered closed by the provincial board of Capiz and the division superintendent of schools. The President gave some aid for the maintenance of the school, saying that “all people, irrespective of party, can get aid from the government.”

Among those in the Buruanga delegation were Sylvio Casungcad, Rufino Prado, Eliseo Caungca, Eugenio Sunico, Benito Sualog, Policarpio Dagohoy, Pacifico Dagohoy, Juan Casungcad, and Domingo Malicsi.

Dr. Rogelio Relova, who has been making researches on anti-rabbies, called on the President and thanked him for the P30,000 given as aid for his research work. He submitted a progress report on the research work. With Dr. Relova was Miss Matilde Relova.

Former NARRA General Manager Eligio Tavanlar, who is now with the World Veterans Federation, discussed with the President the proposed establishments here of a sheltered workshop for war veterans and widows. With Tavanlar were Leonardo Alfuate, president of the United Disabled Veterans Association of the Philippines, and Mrs. Minerva Kierulf, president of the War Widows and Orphans Association.

Six Moros, who were leaving for Cairo, Egypt, to study Moslem laws, also called on the President, accompanied by ex-Rep. M. Mindalano.

Locally manufactured carbon paper, shoe milk, and pencils were shown to the President by Hilarion Henares, Sr., and Hilarion Henares, Jr. They invited the President to visit their factory in Pasay City. They said their factory employs 600 workers and employees and that they use more than 50 per cent local raw materials. Henares, Jr., also presented to the President a pamphlet entitled *Without Fear of Tomorrow*, which we wrote.

Rep. Rogaciano Mercado and Gov. Alejo Santos of Bulacan accompanied three members of the *Samahang Bulacan* who suggested commemoration of the birthday of Marcelo H. del Pilar on August 30. In the group were former Manila Rep. Engracio Clemeña, Dr. Nemesio Garcia, and M. Chico.

Other callers of the President included Sen. Quintin Paredes; Reps. Pedro Lopez of Cebu, Eladio Balite of Samar, Domingo Veloso of Leyte, and Justino Benito of Pangasinan; Judge Natividad Almeda-Lopez; and Mrs. Teodoro Evangelista.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay continued to underscore today the emphasis placed by the Administration on the need for countering the legal struggle adopted by the Communist movement in the country by designating Brig. Gen. Pelagio Cruz, Air Force commanding general and of the AFP's top experts on SEATO affairs, as chief of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA).

The President made the designation in the course of an hour-long conference at the Malacañang dining room with Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff, and Gen. Cruz.

The Chief Executive told Generals Vargas and Cruz he had spent many months, scouting for a man of “depth, sound judgment, and analytical ability” to head the NICA and had eyed Cruz from the very beginning. He said the need to act on this choice immediately has become urgent with the Communists expected to step up their subversive activity.

The President instructed Cruz to have the NICA “assert itself” as the top intelligence agency of the government which it had been intended to be. He expressed confidence that with Cruz’s long association with the AFP general staff and his participation in all the major SEATO conferences, the NICA would draw support and cooperation from these sources.

He pointed out SEATO activities up to the present were geared primarily toward anti-subversion efforts and Cruz’s experience in this organization would prove valuable to him in his new post. The President also stressed the necessity of close cooperation between the NICA and the Army Navy, and Air Force intelligence agencies.

As an immediate step in this direction, Gen. Vargas said he would study right away the feasibility of moving the NICA office to Camp Murphy. Cruz vigorously endorsed this proposal.

The President said that the new NICA chief faces a major challenge with the obvious shift in the strategy of Filipino Communists from open revolt to subversion. “A lot will depend on you,” he said. Cruz pledged to exert his best.

The new NICA chief, who will take over immediately, replaces Col. Agustin Gabriel, who has been due for retirement.

Gen. Vargas advised the President that he will designate Col. Benito Ebuena as acting Commander of the Air Force.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay and U. S. Ambassador Albert Nufer this afternoon further strengthened the friendly relationship between the Philippines and the United States during the presentation by the new American ambassador of his credentials to the President.

In presenting his credentials, Ambassador Nufer said that the “traditional and deeply rooted friendship that has always marked the relations between our two countries will be a continuous source of inspiration to me.” These relations, the Ambassador added, were unique and were based upon a partnership which was “tested and firmly cemented at a time when our heritage, traditions, and freedom were imperilled.”

The President, in replying to the Ambassador’s remarks, said that the “present close cooperation between our two countries and the mutual understanding between our two peoples are founded on the special relationship which has subsisted between them since their early association.”

The President continued: “I can say that there can, in fact, be no better example of how two friendly nations can work together in harmony to achieve their common objectives. I am confident that our partnership, established on the basis of faith, dignity, trust, and common understanding, will endure for all time.”

Ambassador Nufer pledged his “fullest cooperation in all matters of common interest to our two countries.” He said that “our mutual dedication to the same basic traditions founded on democratic principles will assure the resolution of problems in an atmosphere of cordiality, friendliness, and respect.”

The presentation ceremony took place at the ceremonial hall in Malacañang at 4 p.m., attended by high Philippine executive and foreign affairs officials and by ranking officials of the U. S. Embassy. After the presentation of credentials and exchange of remarks, President Magsaysay introduced Ambassador Nufer to Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia, who in turn introduced Nufer to the members of the Cabinet and to foreign affairs officials.

The Cabinet members present were Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon, Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevosio, Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez, Press Secretary J. V. Cruz, Public Works Undersecretary Rafael Contreras, Social Welfare Administrator Amparo Villamor, and Acting OEC Administrator Juan Concon.

The foreign affairs officials were headed by the Vice-President, Counselor Octavio L. Maloles, and Protocol Officer Jose Estrada. Also present was Manuel G. Zamora, Malacañang protocol officer.

Ambassador Nufer then introduced the members of his staff to the President. The embassy officials were Minister Charles R. Burrows and Counselors Carl Boehringer, William Walker, and Hayward Hill. Also present were USN Admiral Wendell Switzer, Jusmag Chief Gen. Joseph Harper, U. S. Veterans Administration Chief John T. Cooper, and ICA Chief Harry Brenn.

The President and Ambassador Nufer exchanged toasts after the ceremonies and afterwards engaged in informal conversation. The President took the Ambassador to the Malacañang porch and showed him the surrounding scenery.

July 21.—AT a breakfast conference this morning with the new U. S. ambassador, Albert F. Nufer, the President took up the longstanding bases question.

Ambassador Nufer arrived in Manila last Wednesday to succeed former Ambassador Homer Ferguson.

The breakfast conference was attended by Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, Ambassador Felino Neri, and U. S. Embassy Minister Charles R. Burrows.

As the gathering was mainly a social affair, following close on the heels of Ambassador Nufer's presentation of credentials yesterday, it was understood that the bases question was not formally discussed at length.

AFTER the breakfast conference, the President received former Senator Salipada Pendatun and Provincial Board Member Leopoldo R. Jalandoni of Cotabato.

Pendatun told the President that unsettled land conflicts in several settlement projects in Kauron and Daguma town in Cotabato have brought about tension in the area. Pendatun hinted that the National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration had failed to clear up ownership of lands before accepting settlers to the place.

Pendatun's complaint angered the President that upon receiving the complaint he directed Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol to send Lt. Col. Luis Franco to proceed to the Cotabato towns to settle the land conflicts there.

Pendatun and Jalandoni also requested aid for the various public works projects in their province.

THE only other caller off the President this morning was Edward Prentice, former deputy chief of the FAO (now ICA) here, who paid his respects. Prentice paid a courtesy call on the President.

MALACAÑANG released today President Magsaysay's message on the occasion of Mabini Day. Mabini's 92nd birthday anniversary celebration falls on Sunday, July 22, but is officially celebrated on Monday July 23. Wishing the whole nation to honor Mabini fittingly, the President has declared July 23 as a special public holiday.

The text of the President's message on Mabini Day follows:

"We are honoring Apolinario Mabini, one of our greatest Filipino heroes and patriots, for his dynamic contribution to the cause of our freedom and to the concept of Filipinism. His physical handicap in life did not deter him from giving generously of his intellectual influence which sparked the revolution against foreign domination. His decalogue forms a sound basis for the norm of conduct of every true Filipino.

"Mabini has left us these precious legacies to inspire us, as we keep vigil over our freedom and as we take pride in our country and people."

PRESIDENT Magsaysay in a letter to Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., dated July 18, expressed regret that a commitment he had made months ago would make it impossible for him to preside over the inauguration of the Mabini shrine and the Sotero Laurel Avenue at Tanauan, Batangas, on Mabini Day, July 23.

THE President this afternoon received a letter from U. S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles expressing the American government's concurrence with the President's expressed desire for "an early settlement of the bases question" and advising him that former U. S. Undersecretary of Defense for the Army Karl R. Bendtsen will be dispatched to Manila "for this purpose."

The President received an advance telegraphic transfer of Dulles' letter from the U. S. Embassy this afternoon and was prepared to reply that he would be happy if Bendtsen and his party could arrive in Manila within a week's time so that the talks could get underway immediately.

Dulles said in his letter that he had asked new U. S. Ambassador Albert Nufer to seek the President's agreement "to the earliest possible date for the opening of negotiations." Dulles added that "Mr. Bendtsen and his party will be prepared to arrive in Manila immediately thereafter."

Press Secretary J. V. Cruz said the President will direct Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia, head of the Philippine panel that will meet a United States counterpart group on the bases talks, to advise Nufer that it was the Philippine Government's desire that the negotiations be opened within a week's time.

THE President today expected more light on hazing cases when he agreed to hear Mrs. Rosario A. Borromeo, who denounced Philippine Military Academy authorities in a letter received at Malacañang.

The Chief Executive will receive Mrs. Borromeo on Tuesday, July 24.

Mrs. Borromeo, mother of former PMA cadet Eduardo A. Borromeo, said in her letter that the real reason behind her son's resignation and alleged "sudden loss of interest" in the PMA was that "he could no longer take the unnecessary, brutal, and unwholesome hazing from upperclassmen."

She said her son did not tell the truth when he was interrogated by the President at Malacañang. For this she blamed PMA authorities who allegedly had briefed young Borromeo on what to say before he left the PMA for the interview with the President.

She said that her son was a "picture of a physically and mentally tortured boy" when he was released from the PMA.

The President ordered his aides to contact Mrs. Borromeo for the scheduled audience right after her complaint was received.

July 22.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay paid a visit this morning to the Mabini shrine on Nagtahan Street in observance of the 92nd birthday anniversary of Apolinario Mabini.

Accompanied by former Libraries Director Luis Montilla, incumbent chairman of the Philippine Historical Committee, the President spent 30 minutes in the house where the "sublime paralytic" died on May 13, 1903.

The President was guided around the shrine by Moises Delarmino, caretaker, who identified himself as a great-grandson of the late hero. The Chief Executive was struck by the similarity of facial type between Mabini and Delarmino.

The Chief Executive was shown some relics in the shrine, among them a painting of Mabini by Fabian de la Rosa and some pieces of furniture used by the hero. The painting was in tatters. It had been torn by Japanese soldiers during the occupation.

Many of the relics in the shrine had been moved temporarily to Tanauan, Batangas, Mabini's hometown, where the observance of Mabini Day tomorrow, Monday, July 23, will be centered.

Montilla told the President the Philippine Historical Committee was concerned over the proximity of barong-barong construction to the Mabini shrine. He said this house, just on the other side of the fence from the shrine, might catch fire and the shrine would surely be burned along with it. The President told Montilla to talk to the owners of the lot and house and ask them to find another location in order to free the shrine from fire hazards. In case money was needed to finance the relocation, the President told Montilla to let him know.

From the Mabini shrine, the President motored to Fort Santiago to view the Rizal exhibits and historical papers of the late President Manuel L. Quezon and to inspect the offices of the Philippine Historical Committee. The President visited Rizal's cell in Fort Santiago.

He was told by Montilla that the government was looking for a proper site in which to store and exhibit the voluminous papers of President Quezon and other historical objects associated with his career. The papers, Montilla said, have been donated by the Quezon family to the government.

The President assured Montilla of his full support to the project to find a suitable museum for the Quezon papers.

The President left Malacañang at 10 o'clock and returned about one hour and a half later. Besides Montilla, he was also accompanied by Press Secretary J. V. Cruz and NAMARCO General Manager Manuel Gonzalez.

AFTER returning to the Palace from Fort Santiago, the President had lunch with Mrs. Magsaysay. He rested in the afternoon. At 5 o'clock he worked on state papers until evening.

July 23.—AFTER conferring with his legal advisers in Malacañang this morning, the President motored to Camp Murphy, where he spent an hour and a half for briefing on the problems confronting national security posed by a recent Supreme Court resolution granting bail to former Manila Councilor Amado V. Hernandez, and on the security and legal aspects of the U. S. bases question.

President Magsaysay was briefed on the security and legal aspects of the bases question at Camp Murphy preparatory to his meeting with Admiral Arthur W. Radford, chairman of the U. S. joint chiefs of staff, tomorrow.

The President will have Radford for breakfast at Malacañang tomorrow and it is likely they will hold a conference on matters of mutual interest before, during, or after the breakfast.

The President was briefed at the Camp Murphy conference hall by the Armed Forces general staff and the Administration's top legal advisers present. In the first group were Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, chief of staff; Maj. Gen. Alfonso Arellano, vice-chief of staff; Col. Nicanor Jimenez, G-1 chief; Col. Ismael Lapuz, G-2 chief; Col. Dionisio Ojeda, G-3 chief; Col. Manuel Salientes, G-4 chief; and Col. Ricardo Papa, deputy Constabulary chief.

Also present were Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, Solicitor General Ambrosio Padilla, Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon, Press Secretary J. V. Cruz, and former Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro.

The meeting lasted from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

IN order to emphasize beyond equivocation that the intent of the Administration in seeking amendment of the law on rebellion is exclusively to meet the challenge posed by the Communist conspiracy and for no other purpose, President Magsaysay this afternoon asked Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason and Solicitor General Ambrosio Padilla to restudy the proposed amendment with the end in view of clarifying this intent and providing adequate measures against such conspiracy.

July 24.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay and Admiral Arthur W. Radford, chairman of the U. S. joint chiefs of staff, held a general review of the security situation in this country and immediate area in the course of a breakfast tendered by the President for Radford at Malacañang this morning.

The breakfast also served as an occasion for the Filipino and American officials concerned to brief the President and Radford on the progress of U. S. military aid to this country, particularly the assistance program drawn up for the current fiscal year.

U. S. Ambassador Albert Nufer also advised the President that Karl R. Bendetsen, former U. S. undersecretary of defense for the army, was definitely arriving in Manila on Saturday, July 28. Bendetsen has been designated by the U. S. Government to assist Nufer in the forthcoming talks with a Philippine panel on revisions in the Philippine-United States bases agreement.

Defense Secretary Balao and Gen. Joseph Harper, JUSMAG chief, briefed the President and Radford on the programming of U. S. military assistance to the Philippines during the current fiscal year. They said the program was broken up into four quarter schedules as follows:

For the first quarter, the U. S. will make available to the Philippines 137,000 gallons of high octane gas to meet the fuel requirements of the six T-33 jet trainer planes which have been turned over to the Air Force for the training of PAF personnel in jet aircraft.

This training program has previously been hampered by the prohibitive cost of fuel for the jet planes. The U. S. has stepped into this breach with its offer to donate the fuel requirements of the trainers.

In the second quarter, the U. S. will turn over four SA-16s to the PAF. These are amphibious planes used in air-sea rescue operations.

More T-33s, the exact number still undetermined, will be furnished to the PAF in the third quarter.

In the fourth quarter, the U. S. Government will turn over to the PAF a squadron of F-86s, the famous Saberjets, to mark the PAF's most notable advance yet into the jet age. A squadron usually consists of 30 planes. By that time PAF authorities expect to have trained the necessary pilots and crews to maintain the jet squadron.

Present at the Malacañang breakfast, which lasted from 8 to 9:10 a.m., were Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, Admiral Radford, Ambassador Nufer, Secretary Balao, Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez, Rep. Numeriano Babao, Press Secretary J. V. Cruz, Minister Charles R. Burrows, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Rear Admiral Wendell Switzer, Maj. Gen. Joseph Harper, Brig. Gen. William Lee, Rear Admiral Glen R. Donaho, and Rear Admiral C. G. Griffin, Rear Admiral J. F. Russel, and Col. Claire E. Hutchin of Admiral Radford's staff.

"YOU deserve this very much," President Magsaysay said today in inducting Justice Alfonso Felix as associate justice of the Supreme Court.

The induction of the new Supreme Court justice was witnessed by the justices of the high tribunal and of the Court of Appeals and by ranking government officials. Relatives of Justice Felix were also present.

The President also told Justice Felix that "the country has faith in you." After the induction, the President exchanged greetings with the justices of the Supreme Court and of the Court of Appeals.

Among those present at the oath-taking were Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao; Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason; Sen. Quintin Paredes, Supreme Court Chief Justice Ricardo Paras; Supreme Court Justices Guillermo F. Pablo retired, Cezar Bengzon, Sabino Padilla, Marceliano R. Montemayor, Alex Reyes, Felix Bautista Angelo, Alejo Labrador, and Jose B. L. Reyes; Court of Appeals Justices Jose Gutierrez David, Jose Ma. Peredes, Arsenic P. Dizon, Sotero Rodas, Dionisio de Leon, Buenaventura Ocampo, Felipe Natividad, Felix Martinez, Emilio Peña,

Querube C. Makalintal, Conrado V. Sanchez, and Florentino Saguin; Solicitor General Ambrosio Padilla; and others.

After the oath-taking ceremony, the President received callers among whom were Reps. Manuel Cases of La Union and Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur and Gov. Bernardo Gapuz of La Union. The three officials informed the President about the offer of the tobacco planters' FACOMAs to buy the CEPOC cement factory in Bacnotan, La Union.

Reps. Cases and Crisologo told the President that the tobacco farmers' cooperative was willing to advance P1 million in cash and pay the balance in installments. The Chief Executive said that he was in favor of selling the Bacnotan CEPOC plant through public bidding.

The President also received Mrs. Rosario A. Borromeo, mother of Cadet Eduardo Borromeo, who had resigned from the PMA because of "loss of interest in the military career." Cadet Borromeo was one of the PMA cadets who were alleged to be hazing victims.

Mrs. Borromeo talked to the President about her son's case at the PMA. The Chief Executive said he would talk again to the 19-year old former cadet, who is now taking engineering, to ask him to tell the truth about the hazing incidents at the PMA. "He should tell me the truth and should not be afraid because I want to clean up this hazing business at the PMA," the President said.

The Chief Executive also reminded Mrs. Borromeo about the civic duty of her son to tell the truth. The former cadet was being charged by the PMA for some articles he allegedly had not returned yet. According to Mrs. Borromeo, her son had accounted for all the articles and money issued to him at the PMA before he resigned.

Rep. Reynaldo Honrado of Surigao headed a delegation of provincial and municipal officials who requested aid for public works projects in their province. Among those in the group were Mayors Ricardo Castillo of Bislig, Adela Serra Ty of Tandag, Ramon Kaimo of Surigao, Egidio Lozada of Cagwait, and Provincial Board Members Olimpico Ipi and Jose Aresa.

Other provincial delegations which called on the President and requested aid for feeder roads, barrio school houses, artesian wells, and other public works projects were the Ilocos Sur delegation headed by Gov. Pedro Singson Reyes, the Rizal group headed by Gov. Isidro Rodriguez, the Quezon municipal officials with Rep. Manuel Enverga, and barrio people from Bacolor, Guagua, and Macabebe, Pampanga, with Gov. Rafael Lazatin and ex-Rep. Amado Yuzon.

Among the other callers of the President were Sens. Roseller T. Lim and Decoroso Rosales; Reps. Natalio Castillo and Bartolome Cabangbang of Bohol, Alberto Ubay of Zamboanga del Norte, Vicente Peralta of Sorsogon, Ramon Durano of Cebu, Fernando Pajarillo of Camarines Norte, Agustin Gatuslao of Negros Occidental, and Tobias Fornier of Antique; Govs. Esmeraldo Eco of Camarines Norte, Dominador Chipeco of Laguna, and Conrado Estrella of Pangasinan; Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez; Francisco Ortigas; ex-Governors Wilfredo Panotes and Jose P. Carag; and Chondri Khaliquezzaman, Pakistan minister to the Philippines.

THE President signed Executive Order No. 194, extending the prohibition to slaughter carabaos up to December 31, 1956, Malacañang announced today.

The President signed the order "to carry out effectively the provisions of Republic Act No. 11 and to conserve our work animals for agricultural purposes."

The prohibition to slaughter carabaos for a period of six months from January 31, 1956, under Executive Order No. 162 is extended up to December 31, 1956. The President enjoined the secretary of agriculture and natural resources and all public officials concerned not to issue during the period any permit for the slaughtering of carabaos.

July 25.—THE Cabinet in its meeting today created a committee to study the best manner of operating the *Doña* vessels of the National Development Company.

The committee, which was chairmanned by Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, met this afternoon at the Department of Finance and discussed the matter thoroughly. Secretary Hernandez said the group would submit its report to the President immediately.

Members of the committee who attended the meeting were Cornelio V. Crucillo, representing Capt. Andres O. Hizon, NEC executive director; Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma; acting OEC Administrator Juan Concon; and Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona.

Action on the *Doña Alicia*, *Doña Aurora*, and *Doña Nati* was prompted by a decision of the Supreme Court denying the motion for reconsideration of the De La Rama Steamship Company, which had been operating the vessels for sometime. The Supreme Court had required the steamship company to effect the turn-over of the vessels to the NDC.

President Magsaysay presided briefly over the Cabinet meeting after hearing mass at the Malacañang chapel in celebration of the First Lady's birthday. The mass was attended by immediate members and few intimate friends of the Magsaysay family who later on had a simple breakfast at the family dining room. Manila Archbishop Rufino J. Santos officiated at the mass and partook of the breakfast.

The President stayed at the Cabinet meeting for a few moments. He left later to be guest of honor at the commissioning of Cubi Point, U. S. naval air station in Zambales.

After the President had left, Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia took over. The Cabinet then discussed mostly routine matters.

The Cabinet authorized the sending of nurses from different hospitals in the Philippines to Australia as fellows for 1957 under the technical cooperation scheme (Colombo Plan), as follows:

For operating room technique courses: Mrs. Consuelo Arabit, Mrs. Miguela Campos Ong, and Misses Lydia Aspiras, Teresita Giron, Valenta Baricua, Irinea Bugayong, and Luna Bangalan.

For nursing administration: Misses Esperanza Gaerlan and Conchita Cabiluña, Mrs. Francisca Ibañez, Miss Socorro Tabuga, Mrs. Alma Aguirre Paynor, and Miss Nani Chavit.

The sending of these "fellows" is subject to the condition that the government will not incur any other expenses except their salaries and that these salaries will not be remitted abroad in dollars.

The Cabinet approved the extension of the leave of absence for another year with pay of Antonio V. Arizabal, Jr., ISM laboratory technician of the NASSCO, to enable him to pursue further studies in metallurgical engineering at the Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The Cabinet also approved the extension for two months of the training period of Jose V. Abueba, Jose D. Soberano, and Gregorio A. Francisco, Jr., of the Institute of Public Administration, University of the Philippines, to participate under the 1955 ICA-NEC Type A technical assistance program to enable them to obtain the degree of doctor of philosophy and enhance their capabilities in improved instruction in public administration in the University of Michigan.

It was understood that in all these cases no dollar allocations will be involved.

Also approved was the construction of the cause-way extension in the Port of Peñaplata, Davao, from the P30,000 loan granted by the province of Davao to the municipality of Samal, and the construction by the Administration of the Sto. Cristo-Maliwalo road in Tarlac with an appropriation of P20,000.

Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., sponsored a resolution congratulating Mrs. Luz Banzon Magsaysay on the occasion of her birthday today. The resolution was unanimously approved by the Cabinet members.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay flew to Cubi Point, Zambales, this morning to inspect the new U. S. naval air station and deliver a brief speech in connection with its inauguration.

The President was guest of honor at a luncheon offered by the Cubi Point staff after the station had been formally inaugurated by Admiral Arthur W. Radford, chairman of the U. S. Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Accompanied by Press Secretary J. V. Cruz, Assistant Executive Secretary Enrique Quema, Ambassador Felino Neri, and Palace newsmen, the President boarded the plane *Pagasa* at the Air Force base at Nichols at 11 a.m. After the plane had taken off, he was advised that the Cubi Point inaugural ceremonies had been delayed and were not expected to end until 12 noon. The President took advantage of the extra time afforded him to make an aerial inspection of expansion work being undertaken at Basa Air Base at Floridablanca, Pampanga. Then he napped on the way to Cubi.

Before the *Pagasa* landed at Cubi, the President was handed a wire by his aide, Maj. Jose Estrella, advising him that Mrs. Encarnacion Banzon-Serrano, sister of the First Lady and wife of Luis Serrano, *Manila Times* newsman, had died at the Philippine General Hospital of a lingering illness. This tragedy marred the birthday anniversary of the First Lady, who earlier had started the day with mass at Malacañang with the President and their children and close friends attending. A rush call later from the hospital advising Mrs. Magsaysay that her sister had taken a turn for the worse sent the First Lady rushing to the latter's bedside. She was with Mrs. Serrano to the end.

The President landed at Cubi Point at 12:20 p.m. and was met, as he got off the plane, by Admiral Radford; Rear Adm. Wendell Switzer, commander of U. S. naval forces in the Philippines; Rear Adm. Glen R. Donaho, commander of the U. S. naval base at Olongapo; Capt. Page Knight, Cubi Point commander; and Filipino officials who had preceded him there to attend the commissioning exercises. These included Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez, and Rep. Numeriano Babao.

The President was given a 21-gun salute and honors by the guards of honor. Then followed a spectacular air show staged by U. S. planes which held the crowd gaping in admiration for about 30 minutes. The entire party moved on afterwards to two large buildings off the main runway where lunch was served. The President, Admiral Radford, and all the other guests had to go through a chow-line like everyone else who was there.

After lunch the President was besieged by autograph-hunters who asked him to sign on his portrait printed on the official program for the ceremonies. At about 1:50 p.m. the President and the rest of the party moved on to an adjoining hall where he delivered his speech. He was introduced by Admiral Switzer simply as "His Excellency, the President of the Philippines." The President matched Switzer's brevity by delivering a five-minute speech. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 3913–3914, for the text of the speech.)

The President and his party were then taken on an automobile tour of the naval station. After receiving honors again from the honor guards the President took off from Cubi Point at 2:35 p.m., arriving at Nichols at 3 p.m. From the airbase he went directly to Funeraria Paz to view Mrs. Serrano's remains. The President returned to Malacañang at 5 o'clock.

July 26.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay cancelled all his appointments as he attended the last rituals and the interment of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Encarnacion Banzon-Serrano eldest sister of Mrs. Magsaysay and wife of Luis Serrano of the *Manila Times*.

The President and Mrs. Magsaysay and Serrano led members of the family of the deceased, with government officials and friends, in attending the mass and *REQUIEM* services at the Philippine Women's University chapel in the morning and at the funeral rites at the La Loma Cemetery in the afternoon.

After an early morning breakfast, the President accompanied by his aide, Maj. Jose Estrella, motored to the PWU chapel where the remains of the late Mrs. Serrano lay in state. Mrs. Magsaysay had gone earlier to the chapel.

From the chapel the President and Mrs. Magsaysay returned to Malacañang, arriving at 9:15 a.m. The President then left Malacañang again with his aide and came back afterwards for lunch.

At 4 p.m., the President and the First Lady accompanied by Maj. Estrella, again motored to the PWU and joined the funeral procession up to the La Loma Cemetery, where Mrs. Serrano was interred. Performing the last Requiem rites was Archbishop Rufino Santos, assisted by Lieut. Col. Nicolas Ortega, chief of AFP chaplains.

The President acted as one of the pallbearers who carried the casket to the niche where it was interred.

Among those at the cemetery were immediate members of the family of the deceased, Education Secretary and Mrs. Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, Social Welfare Administrator Amparo Villamor, Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez, and Brig. Gen. Manuel Cabal.

The President and Mrs. Magsaysay returned to Malacañang, about 5:30 p.m. Shortly after his arrival, the President had a conference with Internal Revenue Collector Silverio Blaquera, with whom he discussed revenue matters.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this evening prevailed on defense and Armed Forces brass to meet squarely the "more difficult challenge" posed by local Communism and to carry on the policy of "all-out force and all-out friendship" used against the Huks.

The President summoned the highest defense officials to a dinner conference at Malacañang to ask them to redouble their efforts to meet the new challenge in view of the leniency extended to the local Communists movement by a segment of the government.

The President said that while this leniency undoubtedly has given the Communists an unexpected advantage in their campaign of rebellion and subversion and has threatened to nullify the gains that the government has won against them over the past six years, the "more difficult challenge" that has resulted from this situation should spur them to even more dedicated efforts toward stamping out the Communist movement. "The bigger the challenge," he told them, "the more determined you should be."

The President addressed this plea to a gathering of defense and Armed Forces brass composed of Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Brig. Gen. Pelagio A. Cruz, (Air Force chief and NICA director-designate), Brig. Gen. Manuel Cabal (PC chief), Col. Nicanor Jimenez, and Col. Ismael Lapuz.

The President directed the group to intensify the policy of all-out force and all-out friendship that has been employed with marked success against the Huks. He said the government should continue to extend every opportunity to return to a peaceful and productive life to Huks who have joined the movement through force and coercion, misplaced faith in Communist promises, or real or fancied grievances. He said the policy of offering land to these elements should be carried on.

On the other hand, the President ordered that the full force of the government's power and resources be applied against die-hard Communists. "Give them no quarters," he said, "because they don't deserve any." The President reemphasized that the unchanging goal of the local die-hard Communists was to overthrow the legally-constituted government and deliver the country to a foreign power.

The top defense and Armed Forces officials led by Secretary Balao pledged to redouble the “all-out force and all-out friendship” campaign to meet the new and more difficult challenge posed by the leniency shown to local Communists.

“All of you have this golden opportunity to serve and save the country in a time of real crises,” the President said. “It is up to you to see to it that the country remains in the hands of the Filipino people and not of the agents of a foreign power.”

The President’s conference with the defense group lasted from 7:45 to 9:15 p.m.

July 27.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this day reiterated the policy of his administration that “the public servant must suffer for the people” in an extemporaneous speech delivered in the town plaza of Silay, Negros Occidental, where he opened a rural socio-economic and educational seminar.

The President, in the same speech, also:

- (1) Encouraged the people of Negros Occidental to plant more coffee and citrus to improve the economy of the country;
- (2) Said, when asked if he would run for re-election, that it was up to the party and that he was always ready to serve the nation;
- (3) Told the leaders of the coffee planters and the district forester of Negros Occidental to see him in Malacañang and discuss with him problems affecting the coffee planters, including crop loans and the grant of forest areas which could be cleared and planted to coffee;
- (4) Announced that part of the United States aid and the Japanese reparations would be utilized to put up at least 30,000 artesian wells all over the country; and
- (5) Read two telegrams addressed to him in Silay requesting aid for the hospitalization of a sick man and a child suffering from meningitis and TB and said that he would have the sick man and the child brought to Manila. (The man and the child were brought to Manila by plane this afternoon.

The matter of the President’s re-election came after the President had spoken when Silay Councilor Jose Jardiolin asked: “Will you accept the candidacy for re-election, Mr. President?”

After saying that it was up to the party and that he was always ready to serve, the President said: “However, that’s too far yet. Let us not talk about politics and concentrate on the problems confronting us now, like production, irrigation, and Communism.”

The President reminded the Negros Occidental people that he had promised them three things in 1953 when he was a candidate for the presidency. He said that all the three promises were already accomplished and enumerated the following accomplishments:

- (1) There are no more private soldiers or special policemen in the province to terrorize the people;
- (2) There were clean elections in 1953 and 1955; and
- (3) Salaries of teachers, health officers, and other government employees have been increased.

The President's speech was interrupted with applause many times. He told the people to "see to it that our public servants or officials do what they are supposed to do." He said: "If they (the government officials and employees) are corrupt, dishonest, or lazy, report them to me. You are my eyes and ears."

Talking about his administration, the Chief Executive said that he looked after all the people in the same manner that he looked after his family. He said that this was, is, and will ever be his policy until the end of his term.

Turning to production, the President stated that production was the main problem of the country. He announced that in two years, the Bureau of Lands distributed 1,000 land patents to small farmers to help them add to the country's production.

The President spoke at the town plaza at noon and refused an umbrella offered him by a lady because of the heat of the mid-day sun. He said that safe-drinking water was needed in every barrio of the country and announced that P160 million was earmarked for the completion of irrigation projects alone all over the country.

After his speech, the President conducted an open forum and asked the people to talk about their problems. The audience responded with requests for aid and expressions of gratitude for help extended to them by the President.

Jesus Armigos of Silay thanked the President for the successful treatment of his TB disease. He recalled that he sent a telegram to the President asking for help in the treatment of his tuberculosis. The President had him treated at the Quezon Institute.

Sofia Agravante of Saravia, a nearby town, sent a telegram to the President in Silay and requested help for her child who was suffering from meningitis and TB and mentioned the fact that her husband was "jobless and moneyless." The President brought the child and her mother to Manila and had the child sent to the Quezon Institute for treatment.

Justiniano Cadiz of Silay complained to the President that he was not yet paid his salary as a laborer of a private fishing company. The President had the case of Cadiz noted by his aide and assured the laborer that he would be given justice.

AFTER the affair at the Silay town plaza, the President had lunch at the residence of Oscar Locsin where he took occasion to discuss the problems of the coffee planters, sugar planters, and town officials of the province.

After lunch, the President was presented with a resolution by the Asociacion de Hacenderos de Silay-Saravia requesting him to run for re-election "because the country in general and the farmers in particular have much need of your unselfish devotion to the welfare of the masses." The planters also reiterated their "unflinching loyalty to the present Administration" and their undivided support for the President's candidacy for re-election.

The President arrived at the Bacolod City airport 9:15 a.m., after a two-hour flight from Manila. At the Bacolod airfield, the President was met by ranking government officials headed by Sen. Jose C. Locsin, Rep. Carlos Hilado, Gov. Valeriano Gatuslao, 3rd MA Commander Col. Cornelio Bondad, and Bacolod City Mayor Teofisto Cordova.

From the airfield, the President motored to Silay and was mobbed by people, old and young, several times on the way. The President had to stop on the way about seven times before he reached Silay. He rested for a few minutes at the house of Gov. Gatuslao before proceeding to Silay.

On the way, the people did not only stay by the sides of the road but blocked the streets in order to get a glimpse of, or shake hands with, the President. Teachers and students of the Negros Occidental High School, the Talisay-Silay Elementary School, the Negros Occidental School of Arts and Trades, and the vendors and residents of Talisay were among those who stopped the President on the way. The President's car was decked with flowers as the people kept throwing them along the way from Bacolod City to Silay.

Students of the La Consolacion College of Bacolod City and members of the local Catholic Action presented a resolution to the President complaining about the presence of Japanese burlesque in Bacolod. They called the burlesque show a “threat to the welfare of our youth which is dear both to you and to our immortal Rizal.” The President referred the matter to the Bacolod City mayor and told him to do what was just.

From the town plaza of Silay, the President visited the industrial arts exhibits of the Bureau of Agricultural Extension and the Bureau of Public Schools and expressed satisfaction over the exhibits. He also paid a visit to the boy’s shop of the Negros Occidental School of Arts and Trades.

On the way back to Manila, the presidential plane encountered a thunderstorm over Capiz, about 3:40 p.m. and had a rough flight. The President arrived in Malacañang about 5:30 p.m.

Those who accompanied the President to Negros Occidental were Secretary of Commerce and Industry Oscar Ledesma, Reps. Jose Puey and Agustin Gatuslao, Benjamin Gaston, Lt. Leopoldo Regis (junior aide), and newspapermen on the Malacañang beat.

July 28.—THIS morning, the President had a breakfast conference with Sen. Domocao Alonto and Benjamin Andrada, leader of the Nacionalista Party in Lanao. They discussed the improvement of coffee and cassava production in Lanao.

The President reiterated that the economic development of the country “depends on how much we produce.” He was pleased when Sen. Alonto informed him that Lanao was ranking in the production of these two commodities.

Also present during the breakfast conference which lasted from 8 to 9 a.m. were Mrs. Benjamin Andrada, Franklin Andrada, and Miguel Lluch.

Before breakfast, the President conferred with Customs Commissioner Manuel P. Manahan and MRR General Manager Salvador Villa, who consulted him on matters regarding their respective offices.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning directed the Armed Forces general staff to prepare for the National Security Council immediately on updated evaluation of the Huk situation and a plan of action to be adopted against the legal shift in the Communist struggle. He issued the directive during a conference with the general staff held at the Malacañang dining room.

The President said he planned to convene the National Security Council at the first opportunity to acquaint this body with the prevailing situation and ask it to consider how the Armed Forces proposed to carry on the anti-Communist campaign with the means available to them. He said he felt the council must be consulted on this question because it is the highest policy body concerned with national security.

The staff told the President the new Communist effort was geared toward infiltrating the country’s political, economic, and cultural institutions with the end in view of carrying on activities aimed at the eventual overthrow of democratic government.

The President also reiterated to the staff to prosecute vigorously in the field the all-out force and all-out friendship method he had initiated in the anti-dissident campaign.

The conference, lasting from 9 to 10:30 a.m., was attended by Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao; Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol; Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff; Maj. Gen. Alfonso Arellano, vice-chief of staff; Brig. Gen. Manuel Cabal, PC chief; Brig. Gen. Pelagio Cruz, PAF chief and NICA director-designate; Col. Nicanor Jimenez, G-1 chief; Col. Ismael Lapuz, G-2 chief; and Press Secretary J. V. Cruz.

The National Security Council is composed of the entire Cabinet and key congressional officials.

THIS afternoon the President strongly advocated the nationwide use of Tagalog as the national language as a means of strengthening the country through a better understanding among Filipinos.

The President made this appeal in an extemporaneous speech in Tagalog delivered after he had awarded medals and diplomas to seven outstanding Filipino Tagalog writers who have contributed much to the development and propagation of the national language. The ceremony which was held at the Malacañang Social Hall was sponsored by the *Panitik ng Kababaihan*, of which Mrs. Nieves Beans del Rosario is the president.

Those given awards by the President were Julian Cruz Balmaseda (posthumously given to his widow, Mrs. Emilia Balmaseda), Faustino Aguilar (posthumously given to his widow, Mrs. Emilia Aguilar), Juan Cabrerios Laya (posthumously given to Mrs. Silvina Laya), Lope K. Santos, Jaime C. de Veyra (represented by his daughter, Miss Lourdes de Veyra), Dionisio San Agustin, and Iñigo Ed. Regalado.

In his remarks the President said that, generally, strong nations had one national language. Thus, he added, one of the means of strengthening the Philippines and making the Filipinos more united in sentiment and thought was the use of Tagalog in all parts of the country.

The President said: "Every Filipino should be proud of his native tongue and he should speak it with pride." In this connection, the Chief Executive recalled that in one of the presentation of credential ceremonies at the Malacañang ceremonial hall, the President himself had delivered his response remarks in Tagalog. This, he said, he had done with pride as a Filipino.

In the course of his remarks, the President quoted several lines from Balagtas' *Florante at Laura*, to the delight of the audience. He also quoted Rizal's statement on the love of one's native tongue.

Remembering Jose Villa Panganiban, Institute of National Language directors' earlier speech wherein he had asked that a bigger appropriation be given to his office, the President said that he would recommend to Congress next year, more funds for the Institute so that it could perform its task more effectively. This was met with approval by the audience.

The President also said that there should be annual awards to Tagalog writers in order to give further encouragement to Tagalog writers in enriching the national language.

President Magsaysay also announced the holding of a contest for the best translation in Tagalog of his concept of positive nationalism. He said that three prizes would be awarded to be decided by a committee which will conduct the contest.

Other speakers at the program were Prof. Encarnacion Alzona, vice-president of the *Panitik ng Kababaihan* who acted as master of ceremonies; Mrs. del Rosario, and Dean Jorge C. Bocobo. Miss Patrocinio Santos declaimed *Ang Wika*, while Miss Esperanza Gomez sang two songs. Emilio Mar. Antonio's Tagalog declamation was well received by the audience.

The National Anthem, *Lupang Hinirang*, was sung accompanied by the Constabulary Band.

IN the evening, the President motored to the National Press Club building, where he had dinner with some metropolitan editors and NPC officers. He was guest of honor at the awards ceremonies at the National Press Club.

The journalism awards were underwritten by the Standard Vacuum Oil Company.

In his brief remarks on the occasion, the President congratulated both the winners of the awards and the Standard Vacuum Oil Company for having initiated the awards.

“It is my hope that the system of awards . . . will become in good time a part of the traditions of our press, symbolizing all that is good and constructive and responsible in journalism,” the President said. (Watch for the full text of the speech in the next issue of the *Gazette*.)

Jose C. Balein of the *Manila Chronicle* won the first prize for outstanding journalism of 1955.

Leon O. Ty of the *Philippines Free Press* won the second prize.

Jose Copiendo Tuvera and Mario P. Chanco won first and second honorable mentions, respectively. Luis R. Mauricio and Gabriel Mañalac, Jr., tied for third honorable mention.

Eight other special awards were given for distinctions in various departments of journalism.

MALACAÑANG announced today that it has not authorized anybody or any entity to put out a souvenir publication to commemorate President Magsaysay’s birthday which falls on August 31.

This announcement was made upon receipt of information that the National Souvenir Publication had been contacting business firms soliciting advertisements to be inserted in a projected souvenir publication to commemorate the 49th birthday anniversary of the President.

A Malacañang spokesman reiterated that the President never approved of such projects. He added that similar requests for advertisements linking the President’s name should be ignored and should be reported immediately to the PCAC for appropriate action.

July 29.—FORMER U. S. Undersecretary of Defense for the Army Karl R. Bendetsen, at a breakfast conference at Malacañang this morning, brought the “very welcome news” that the title papers and title claims held by the United States to its bases areas here would arrive this week for turnover as promised to the Philippines by U. S. Vice-President Richard M. Nixon.

Bendetsen told President Magsaysay the U. S. Government was rushing the preparation of these papers to be able to comply as soon as possible with Vice-President Nixon’s commitment regarding their transfer when he came here for the Fourth of July ceremonies.

Vice-President Nixon pledged then that “the United States will transfer and turn over to the Philippines all title papers and title claims held by the United States to all land areas used either in the past or at present as military bases.”

The President told Bendetsen the imminence of the arrival of the documents was “very welcome news” and expressed his appreciation for the efforts taken by the U. S. Government to expedite the transfer.

Bendetsen said the documents will go to the Sangley Point Land Office in Cavite for processing and preparation for their transfer. He said every step will be taken at Sangley to make sure that all the documents are in perfect order upon their turnover to the Philippine Government. He added this might take some time but gave assurance every effort will be made to expedite the process.

The President said he appreciated the U. S. Government’s desire to put everything in order and asked Bendetsen to tell Sangley officials to take all the time needed to complete the job.

Bendetsen said the task of gathering the U. S. Government’s title papers and title claims to its bases here was a “complex process” that sent researchers digging into musty files and government archives in Washington, D.C. “Some of the papers we will deliver to you, Mr. President, date back to Spanish times,” he said.

Bendetsen called on the President together with Col. Alden K. Sidley, military assistant, and Capt. William J. Lederer, his special assistant. The President and Bendetsen exchanged reminiscences back to their first meeting in Washington when the former was secretary of national defense and the latter was U. S. undersecretary of defense. Their visit lasted from 8:45 to 9:30 a.m.

MALACAÑANG issued the following statement this day:

“As far as the President is concerned, the highest officials of the defense department and armed forces have never made any move to resign their positions for any cause.

In fact, the reason the President met with the general staff last Friday evening was to inquire about the alleged mass resignation that had been reported in the newspapers earlier that afternoon. As soon as the facts were made clear to him, he dismissed the matter quickly and went on to discuss the dissident situation with them. As the Malacañang report of that meeting said, the President ‘prevailed on defense and armed forces brass to meet squarely the *more difficult challenge* posed by local Communists and to carry on the policy of *all-out force and all-out friendship* used against the Huks’. This was erroneously interpreted to the effect that the President had prevailed upon them not to resign, which could not have been the case since there was no basis for it.

“The President knows our defense officials and the members of the general staff intimately. He has worked with them many years. He has confidence in their unequivocal loyalty to democratic principles and institutions and in their unwavering recognition of the supremacy of civil authority.”

July 30.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning inducted Ambassador Felino Neri as Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Japan.

Ambassador Neri’s induction was witnessed by Sen. Jose P. Laurel, officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs headed by Vice-President and concurrently Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Garcia and Undersecretary Raul S. Manglapus, Manila Japanese Mission Chief Toshio Urabe, Caesar Lanuza, Juan Carlos of the Rotary Club, former War Damage Commissioner Dr. Frank Waring, immediate relatives of the new ambassador, and many others.

After the induction, the President congratulated Ambassador Neri and conferred with him and some of the foreign office officials.

LATER, the President received three congressmen who told him that as far as they were concerned, they believed that the DND and AFP officials did not try to impose on Congress. The three were Reps. Godofredo Ramos of Aklan, Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz, and Samuel Reyes of Isabela.

The three solons said: “After reading the President’s statement on the Army case, we believe that the DND and AFP officials did not try to impose on Congress or on the Supreme Court. As far as we are concerned, we consider the matter closed.” Rep. Ramos is the chairman of the ways and means committee and Rep. Consing is the chairman of the education committee. Rep. Reyes is a member of the CAFA committee.

Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevosio accompanied the 10 regional labor administrators of his department who reported to the President that they would do their best to stop the *sacada* and *thecabo* systems. The 10 regional labor administrators were in a four-day conference in Manila discussing measures to eliminate the *sacada* and the *cabo* systems.

Secretary Adevosio also informed the President that decentralization had already been introduced in the Department of Labor even before the passage of the reorganization law. Adevosio said that, as a result, much work had been accomplished in the Department of Labor.

Commenting on the *sacada* system, the President said that it was comparable to slave labor. According to Secretary Adevos, the 10 regional labor administrators were given specific instructions on how to check the *sacada* and the *cabo* systems.

The President encouraged the labor administrators to help in promoting industrial peace. The 10 labor administrators were Wenceslao Gozon, Gregorio Abisamis, Honorato de Leon, Alfonso Dadivas, Alejandro Lim, Magdalena Almeda, Benjamin Sediño, Honorio Villaranda, and Sauro Peralta.

Members of the Philippine Jockeys' Association also called on the President and presented a resolution requesting that a special race be set aside, part of the proceeds of which to be donated to a trust fund for disabled jockeys. The jockeys also presented a scroll to the President pledging their support and cooperation to the Administration.

The President sent the petition to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes board chairman, Manuel J. Gonzalez, for study and action. The Philippine Jockeys' Association delegation was composed of Inocencio Alba, president; Moises T. Sordan, vice-president; and Board Directors Antonio Zabat, Pedro del Rosario, Loreto Laurel, Florentino Magpantay, Vicente A. Alejandro, and Ramon Dinglasan.

L. E. Spencer, vice-president of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. in Akron, Ohio; and W. E. Klippert, vice-president of the Goodyear Rubber Plantations, called on the President and discussed with him the progress of their company's rubber plantation in Mindanao. With the American business executives were R. W. Pockmire, vice-president and general manager of Goodyear (Philippines); M. Komaroni, resident manager of the Goodyear Philippine Rubber Project; and other local Goodyear officials.

Eighteen Boy Scouts of the Philippines who were leaving for Japan to attend the 3rd National Japanese Jamboree, also called on the President. Leaders of the boy scouts were Arturo Morato and Scoutmaster Juan Belgica.

Another caller of the President was Brig. Leonard Evenden, commanding officer of the Salvation Army in the Philippines. With Brig. Evenden were Captains D. J. Bigornia and Eulogio Urbien. The SA officers presented the President with two books about the life of William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, and the best wishes of Gen. Wilfred Kitching, present commander of the SA.

Other callers included Rep. Samuel Reyes and a delegation from Isabela, Rep. Leonardo Perez, and a group of municipal officials from Nueva Vizcaya, Gov. Jose Dinglasan and provincial officials of Capiz, ex-Governor Damaso Samonte, Judge Vicente Llanes and Ilocos Norte delegation, Mayor Adriatico Golen of Mangaldan, Pangasinan, and a Quezon delegation with Mayor Marcial Punzalan of Tiaong, Quezon.

July 31.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today received political leaders from several provinces who endorsed his candidacy for re-election and expressed full support of his administration. The President also inducted a Liberal Party mayor and a congressman into the folds of the Nacionalista Party.

The congressman who was inducted by the President as a new NP member was Rep. Pedro Lopez, independent, of Cebu. The affiliation of Rep. Lopez was sponsored by Reps. Maximino Noel, Nicolas Escario, and Isidro Kintanar, and Gov. Jose Briones of Cebu. Also present at the induction were Speaker Protempore Daniel Romualdez and Rep. Mateo Pecson of Masbate.

The other new NP affiliate was Mayor Patrocinio Gamido of Victoria, Tarlac, whose induction was witnessed by Rep. Constancio Castañeda and Gov. Arsenio Lugay of Tarlac. The new NP members openly expressed support of the President's re-election.

A large group of provincial board members, mayors, and political leaders of four provinces in Mindanao called on the President and also voiced support for the President in the 1957 elections. Sen. Domocao Alonto, who headed the delegation, told the President that "the leaders are insisting that you run for re-election." Others in the Mindanao

group were Princess Tarhata Kiram and Princess Putli Amilbangsa, sister of Rep. Ombra Amilbangsa, Liberal, of Sulu.

Rep. Vicente Peralta of Sorsogon also accompanied some Liberal Party leaders of his province who pledged their support to the President in the 1957 elections. The LP leaders were ex-Mayors Jose Averilla of Donsol and Eufrosio Madonero of Pilar and Juan Abrantes. Melchor Aquino, Sr., and Melchor Aquino, Jr., were also with Rep. Peralta.

Replying to the endorsements for his re-election, the President said that 1957 was far off yet and that he was concentrating now on the immediate problems confronting the country. He said it was yet too early to discuss politics.

The President also received many provincial delegations which requested aid for feeder roads, irrigation projects, school houses, artesian wells, and various public works projects. Among the provincial delegations were the municipal officials of Isabela headed by Gov. Felix Caro; Mayors Rafael Gozon of Cabatuan and Ricardo Paguirigan of Ilagan and several councilors; the Leyte group headed by Speaker Protempore Daniel Romualdez; two mayors from Misamis Oriental with Rep. William Chongbian; Cabanatuan City farmers with Rep. Celestino Juan; Pila, Laguna, residents accompanied by Rep. Jacobo Gonzales; the Surigao delegation headed by Rep. Reynaldo Honrado; Zambales municipal officials with Rep. Enrique Corpus; and the Nueva Vizcaya delegation headed by Rep. Leonardo Perez.

Other callers included Reps. Wenceslao Lagumbay of Laguna, Ramon Tabiana of Iloilo, Jose Nuguid of Bataan, Tobias Fornier of Antique, Carlos Tan of Leyte, and Emilio Cortez of Pampanga; Govs. Mariano Tajonera of Mindoro Occidental and Juan Alberto of Catanduanes; Mayor Norberto Amoranto of Quezon City, former Mayor Adolfo Santos of Pasay City, Gonzalo Aragon, Mrs. Maria Aragon, and Mrs. Eddie Decena.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Official Month in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52 (8), cccxxvi-cccli.

President's Month in Review: August 1-15, 1956

OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

August 1.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay did not receive callers this day, it being regular meeting day of the Cabinet.

The only callers who were able to see the President before the Cabinet meeting were U. S. Ambassador Albert F. Nufer and Karl R. Bendetsen, former U. S. undersecretary of defense for the Army.

The President was advised by Bendetsen that the title papers and title claims held by the U. S. Government to its bases in the Philippines will arrive by special U. S. Government plane Saturday afternoon, August 4.

The President was told that the papers upon arrival would be taken to the Sangley Point Land Office for precessing preparatory to delivery to the Philippine Government. Mr. Bendetsen reiterated that the U. S. Government wanted all the documents to be in perfect order upon their turn-over to the Philippine Government. He said this might take some time.

The President said this was all right. He agreed the important thing was that the documents should be in perfect order on delivery.

Bendetsen, who was actually making an official call on the President after his arrival in Manila to join the U. S. panel in talks with a Philippine panel on revisions in the bases treaty, handed to the Chief Executive a personal letter from U. S. Deputy Secretary of Defense Reuben Robertson, recent Manila visitor. Contents of the letter was not divulged.

The President first received Bendetsen last Sunday, but this was a social call. The two have known each other since the President was secretary of defense and Mr. Bendetsen was with the Department of Defense for the Army.

After the call of the two U. S. officials on the President, Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently secretary of foreign affairs, announced that a meeting he had scheduled for this afternoon with Ambassador Nufer would be called off. The two had planned to meet to discuss the possible agenda for the negotiations between the two panels.

It was indicated the conference between them on the agenda would not be held until after arrival of the title documents.

THE President discussed with the Cabinet and Central Bank Gov. Miguel Cuaderno expeditious ways of implementing the reparations agreement to meet primary and urgent needs of the government.

The President told NEC Executive Director Andres Hizon to prepare a list of commodities and equipment requirements for one year as stipulated in the reparations agreement, to be submitted to the Cabinet as soon as possible. The President also told the Cabinet members to submit a list of the items urgently needed by their respective departments so that an overall listing could be compiled.

Offhand, Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., said that he had informed the committee of Congress holding public hearings on the reparations needs of the country that the Department of Education needed equipment for carrying out the home industries of the department.

President Magsaysay emphasized that only about 50 days were left for the Philippine Government to comply with the submission of these reparations requirements and that all the Cabinet members should submit their lists at the earliest possible time. "I would like this directive implemented right away," the President said.

Governor Cuaderno also told the President that he would submit a memorandum on this matter.

The President presided over the Cabinet Meeting held at the family dining room from about 9:30 a.m. to 1. p.m.

At the Cabinet meeting, upon recommendation of Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, the President ordered the suspension of National Treasurer Vicente Gella, currently being investigated in connection with alleged backpay rackets, and designated Quezon City Treasurer Conrado Hernandez as acting national treasurer.

The President also signed the *ad interim* appointments of Jose Gutierrez David as presiding justice of the Court of Appeals and Fred Ruiz Castro as associate justice of the Court of Appeals. Justice David takes the place of former Presiding Justice Alfonso Felix, who has been elevated to the Supreme Court. Justice Castro fills the vacancy in the Court of Appeals caused by the promotion of Justice Felix to the Supreme Court.

The President also manifested at the Cabinet meeting that he would nominate Manila City Fiscal Eugenio Angeles to the Court of Appeals as soon as he has signed into law the bill passed in the last special session creating an additional division of three justices in this tribunal.

During the meeting, the President and the Cabinet approved:

(1) That the NDC should operate the three *Doña* vessels in order to help Filipino exporters who have been adversely affected by increased shipping rates and lack of bottoms;

(2) A more restrictive policy in granting dollar allocations for the importation of machinery and equipment of new industries so that only industries using 60 per cent local raw materials should be granted such allocation;

(3) The purchase by the NDC of a ramie plant using the Fischer process;

(4) The importation by NAMARCO of construction materials, such as cement, steel bars, and GI sheets; and

(5) Allowing the leasing of pasture lands by government employees. Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, chairman of a committee which had studied the report on the proposed operation of the *Doña* vessels, submitted his findings to the President and the Cabinet. It was unanimously approved that the NDC should operate these *Doña* vessels. It was believed that operation of these vessels by the NDC would benefit Filipino exporters who have complained against the jacking up of shipping rates and the lack of bottoms. Freight for sugar, for example, has gone up from \$8 to \$15 or \$17 per ton.

It was the feeling of the Cabinet that the shipping department of the NDC should also take steps to acquire ships from Japanese reparations in order to expand the shipping facilities of the country.

It was further announced at the Cabinet meeting that any interested party could apply to the NDC for financing help in the purchase of vessels in accordance with the provisions of the Overseas Shipping Act No. 1407. This was calculated to bolster the shipping industry of the country.

The President told Governor Cuaderno that no dollar allocations should be given for the purchase of machinery and equipment for new industries which will have to import raw materials requiring additional dollars. The President said that only those new industries which would use local raw materials to the extent of 60 per cent of their total requirements would be allowed dollars to import their machinery and equipment. The President said that the CB should implement this directive strictly.

In this connection, when Cuaderno was asked by the President as to what essential commodities could be imported without limit as to the amount of dollars, Cuaderno replied that flour, milk, canned fish, and canned meat have been enjoying this status for a long time now. These items have been completely decontrolled.

The Cabinet gave its approval for the NDC to purchase a ramie plant using the Fischer process. NDC General Manager Panganiban, who was present at the Cabinet meeting, was given the go signal for the purchase of this plant.

With the acquisition of the plant, the ramie planters, especially in the South will get a big boost and thousands of dollars used to import clothing materials annually will be saved.

The President announced that he had authorized the NAMARCO to import immediately critical construction materials like cement, steel bars, and GI sheets in order that construction work throughout the country would not suffer delay. One million dollars worth of these essential materials has already been ordered initially by the NAMARCO.

The Cabinet laid down the policy that government employees may be allowed to lease pasture lands. This policy was given following receipt of a telegram from a government employee requesting permission to lease pasture lands. It was recalled in this connection that the President and the Cabinet had earlier given approval to employees to apply for public lands in the provinces where they are employed at present.

In the course of the Cabinet meeting, the President called up NARIC General Manager Jacinto Gavino and asked him to study the effect of the occupation by the communists in Burma on the importation by the Philippines of rice from that country. The President told Gavino to examine the possibilities of importing rice from other countries, if this should be necessary.

President Magsaysay and the Cabinet at their meeting today approved the travel abroad of some 299 participants for the FY 1956 ICA-NEC Type A Technical Assistance Training Program.

The Cabinet, however, stipulated that its approval was subject to the usual ICA-NEC rules and regulations and to the conditions that the Philippine Government would not incur any other expense except tin salaries of government personnel which should not be remitted to them in whole or in part in dollars in accordance with the Cabinet directive of February 29, 1956.

These pensionados will specialize in various studies that will help develop the country in the fields of agriculture, finance, health, industrial development, nuclear engineering, etc. A large number of these pensionados came from private enterprises. The duration of their stay abroad varies from two to six or 18 months, depending upon the nature of studies to be pursued.

The President at the Cabinet meeting also authorized the reservation of a 98-hectare lot of the University of the Philippines in Quezon City as site of the proposed Asian nuclear center.

The authority was granted upon recommendation of the director of national planning of the National Economic Council, as chairman of the Interdepartmental Committee on Atomic Energy.

The committee was directed to prepare, with the cooperation of the director of lands, the implementing proclamation for the grant of the reservation.

The President, also with the concurrence of the Cabinet, authorized the flying of the personal standards of kings, presidents, and other heads of states on the premises of foreign missions in the Philippines. Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia was duly informed of the Cabinet action.

THE President this afternoon said that "our government is giving more and more benefits to the teachers—greater financial rewards for their work, greater security for their families, greater chances of building for the future."

The President delivered the main address at the opening this afternoon of the 5th Assembly of Delegates of the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession, attended by delegates from 33 countries at the session hall of Congress.

He was presented with a scroll by the WCOTP president, Sir Ronald Gould of Great Britain, in the name of the confederation, "for his sympathetic interest in the success of our conference; for his deep appreciation of the role of

education in improving the health and happiness of the common man; for his leadership of his nation; and for his championship of the democratic way of life in the Far East and throughout the world.”

The President earned a thunderous applause from the audience when, replying to the remarks of Sir Gould, he said: “I cannot forget what my teachers in the grade schools taught me—that honesty is the best policy. Honesty and hard work made me President.”

The President delivered a short extemporaneous talk after the scroll was presented to him. He said that it was not only his duty but “it is my obsession to help the teachers.”

In his remarks, Sir Ronald Gould said that it was the first time that a convention of the WCOTP was honored with the presence of a head of state. “I am surprised,” the President answered, “because I for one have always been helping our teachers.”

The scroll was signed by Sir Gould and Dr. William G. Carr of the United States, who is the secretary-general of the confederation. The theme of the 5th Assembly of Delegates is “The Teacher and the Well-being of Society.”

The President was flanked on the platform by Sir Gould, Dr. Carr, and Roman F. Lorenzo, president of the Philippine Public School Teachers Association.

The President left Malacañang with Secretary of Education Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., and Lt. Leopoldo Regis, junior aide, at 3:30 p.m., and arrived at the convention a few minutes later. He was met at the stairway of Congress by officials of the WCOTP.

After receiving the scroll and delivering his extemporaneous remarks about 4 p.m., the President returned to Malacañang. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 4225-4227 for the full text of the President’s speech.)

August 2.—THIS morning the President received three congressmen who told him that they did not oppose nor say anything against the Chief Executive’s appointment of former Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro as associate justice of the Court of Appeals.

Rep. Bartolome Cabangbang of Bohol, a member of the House defense committee, who was reportedly to be against the appointment of Castro, said: “As far as I am concerned, he (Castro) is a civilian, having graduated from the college of law of the University of the Philippines. His training is basically civilian.”

Rep. Pio Duran of Albay told the President: “Justice Castro was my student in the U. P. college of law and he is brilliant. In my opinion, he is fully qualified to be a justice of the Court of Appeals. The fact that he was in the Army should not be held against him. After all, he is now a civilian.”

The third solon who denied that he ever said anything regarding the matter was Rep. Amadeo Perez of Pangasinan, a Liberal. Rep. Perez said: “Whatever my opinion is about the case, I did not issue the statement attributed to me in a morning daily opposing Fred Ruiz Castro’s appointment to the Court of Appeals.”

The three congressmen were among the many callers the President received this day. He received callers up to 1 p.m.

The first callers were provincial and municipal officials of Albay headed by Rep. Duran and Gov. Nicanor Maronilla-Seva. The Albay officials requested aid for feeder roads, irrigation projects, school buildings, and artesian wells. Among those in the group were Mayors Hilario Balilo of Libog, Ramon A. Arnaldo of Legaspi, Pedro Callos of Daraga, Engracio Vibar of Camalig, Carlos Pawa of Manito, Calixto Ecal of Rapu-Rapu, Jose Templado of Tiwi, Teodora Regalado of Malinao, Tamos Cabiles of Tabaco, Emeterio Boneo of Malilipot, Jose Lawenko of Bacacay, Jose Ortega of Jovellar, Tirso de los Reyes of Guinobatan, Rafael Gaya of Ligao, Themosticles Raguero of Oas,

Jesus Salalina of Polanqui, and Braulio Sayson of Libon. All the vice-mayors of the municipalities of Albay were also present.

Officers of the Philippine Medical Association informed the President that their "Free Medical Assistance to Indigents" project, which was started two years ago in Pangasinan, could be conducted on a nation-wide scale beginning September 15, on the occasion of Medicine Week to be proclaimed by the President.

The Chief Executive congratulated the Philippine Medical Association for its charitable work and consented to be present at the opening day of the Medicine Week on September 15. The association officers were headed by Dr. Fernando Manalo, president, and Dr. Juan Salcedo, former Secretary of Health.

As the main feature of the celebration of Sight-Saving Week, which is now on its second day, the President's eyes were examined by Lt. Col. Tomas Ilano and Maj. Luciano Lucson, both of V. Luna General Hospital, in the presence of officers and members of the Sight-Saving Week committee and the Philippine Eye Bank. Among those who were present on the occasion were Henry Tang, chairman of the Sight-Saving Week committee, and Romeo Villonco, chairman of the Philippine Eye Bank.

Hasan Basri, president of the Disabled Veterans' Union of Indonesia, was another caller of the President. Basri, who lost a leg during the war, was on his way to Indonesia from Europe and the United States. He was accompanied by PCAC Chairman Frisco San Juan.

F. E. Rein, director of Kuenzle and Streiff, Inc., requested the President for the lifting of the ban on the exportation of commercial sea shells. Rein was accompanied by Sen. Roseller Lim. The President assured Rein that he would order Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez to convene the export committee of which he is the chairman and invite Rein to express his views before the committee.

First Councilor Virgilio C. Yumong of Pinamalayan, Mindoro Oriental, took his path before the President as a Nacionalista Party affiliate. The new NP member was accompanied by Gov. Francisco Infantado, who headed a delegation from his province.

The President also inducted Democrito O. Plaza as a councilor of Butuan City. The induction of Plaza was witnessed by Rep. Guillermo Sanchez, Gov. Felixberto Dagani, and Board Members Eulogio Garcia and Silvestre Osin of Agusan. The Agusan officials also asked for aid for their various public works projects.

Other provincial delegations which called on the President and requested aid for their various public works projects were the Ilocos Norte mayors and councilors accompanied by Rep. Ferdinand Marcos; Zamboanga del Norte delegation with Rep. Alberto Ubay; Marinduque officials led by Rep. Panfilo Manguera; Pangasinan delegation accompanied by Rep. Amadeo Perez, Mayor Tranquilino Bafiaga of Bautista, and ex-Mayor Isidro Ibay; and the Zamboanga del Norte group which included Mayors Francisco Amoy of Dapitan and Generoso Tokong of Labason, Councilor Jesus O. Martinez of Dipolog, and Vicente Frias.

Among the other callers were Sen. Francisco Delgado; Reps. Flora Crisologo of Ilocos Sur, Manuel Cases of La Union, and Enrique Corpus of Zambales; Govs. Manuel Baretto of Zambales and Rafael Lawilin of Pampanga; former Governor Patricio Fernandez of Palawan; and Mrs. Mary B. Watkins and her son-in-law.

MALACAÑANG announced today that President Magsaysay had rejected terms and conditions for the surrender of Huk leaders and their followers imposed by Casto Alejandrino, "commander in chief" of the Huk military forces, in a conference with an authorized government representative some three weeks ago.

The government representative had gone to the conference, held somewhere in Luzon, in response to Alejandrino's request that he be heard on his terms and conditions.

Press Secretary J. V. Cruz said Alejandrino's terms have been turned down by the President because they were completely unacceptable and offensive to the dignity and authority of the Republic of the Philippines. He said the Government's terms for the surrender of Huk leaders remained the same—unconditional surrender and trial for their crimes.

The Malacañang spokesman said among the conditions laid down by Alejandrino for the start of "full-dress negotiations" between a government panel and a Huk group were the following:

1. Release of "political prisoners" except those charged with murder, arson, or kidnaping. In this connection, Alejandrino wanted a reexamination of the charges filed against the Huks (HMBs), complaining against the procedure of accusing them of complex crimes.
2. Legalization of the Communist Party together with its affiliates, like the PKM, CLO, etc.
3. The negotiating panels will be announced publicly by President Magsaysay and Jesus Lava as head of the HMB. Alejandrino stipulated that the government panel be headed by civilians.
4. Avoid the use of such terms as "unconditional surrender" and instead use such phrases as "alliance," "coalition", or "reunion."
5. Pending final negotiations, the President will send to the Huks the original emissary (the authorized government representative referred to above) and an officer the rank of general to be designated by him who will remain with the HMB forces to insure the return of the Huk emissaries who will be dispatched to the negotiations.

MALACAÑANG also reiterated this day that it has not authorized anybody to undertake the publication of a souvenir program or yearbook to commemorate the 49th birthday anniversary of President Magsaysay on August 31.

A Malacañang spokesman said that another publisher has been soliciting advertisements for a so-called "Presidential Birthday Commemorative Greenbook." The spokesman said that the President vehemently disapproved of these projects and advised those who may be approached to dismiss the solicitors promptly.

All firms and business houses are warned, the spokesman said, that ad solicitors for any kind of birthday brochure for the President should be ignored and reported to the PCAC.

August 3.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay at a breakfast conference with Manila officials this morning, approved the construction of police stations in Reina Regente and Bagumbayan.

Also approved by the President was the construction of a health center in Intramuros. The construction of the police stations in Reina Regente and Bagumbayan was recommended by the Manila officials.

Present at the breakfast-conference were Reps. Arturo Tolentino, Augusto Francisco, and Joaquin Rocas; Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson; and Vice-Mayor Jesus Marcos Rocas.

Other measures designed to improve the living conditions in the city which were discussed at the conference were:

- (1) The plan to give squatters at the North Harbor priority to the government housing projects in Quezon City; and
- (2) Mayor Lacson's suggested plan to intensify an educational campaign to discourage provincial folks from residing in Manila.

The appointment of the eight additional councilors of Manila as provided for in a new law was postponed pending the arrival of Rep. Angel Castaño from Europe, where he attended an international conference.

At the breakfast conference, the President signed the appointments of Ramon Jabson, Leandro Infantado, Ricardo Catindig, Lorenzo Magtuto, Cesar Paguio, Jose L. de Joya, Bernardo Tiongco, and Agapita Magpantay as Manila assistant city fiscals; and Segundo C. Mastrili, Camilo Quason, and Ceferino Padua as solicitors in the Office of the Solicitor General.

Before enplaning for Del Carmen, Pampanga, this morning, the President received Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia, Speaker Protempore Daniel Romualdez, Reps. Bartolome Cabangbang and Natalio Castillo of Bohol, and Mayor Sergio Osmeña, Jr., of Cebu City.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay took off on a helicopter from Malacañang Park at 10:15 a.m. and arrived at the Pampanga Sugar Mills (PASUMIL) hacienda in Del Carmen at 10:50 a.m. He was accompanied by Eugenio Lopez, publisher of the *Manila Chronicle*; Col. Benito Ebuena, Air Force commanding officer, and Maj. Jose Estrella, presidential aide. The President was greeted at the airport by PASUMIL officials, including former NEC Chairman Alfredo Montelibano, Salvador Benedicto, Vicente Arenas, and Mrs. Demetrio Santos.

The presidential party then went to the Del Carmen parish church, where a *Te Deum* was sung by Rev. Fr. Gregorio Torres, parish priest. The party motored to the Demetrio S. Santos Memorial Hospital, where a program was held on an improvised stage in front of the hospital.

Lunch was served at the staff camp. Among other guests present were Gov. Rafael Lazatin of Pampanga, Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevosio, Reps. Ramon Mitra of Mountain Province and Diosdado Macapagal of Pampanga, Brig. Gen. Leoncio Tan, and Malacañang newspapermen.

SPEAKING extemporaneously this afternoon, the President reiterated that the Government was giving priority attention and was doing everything in its power to improve the living conditions of all people, especially the poor and those in the rural areas who had been neglected in the past.

He explained that the Government was concentrating its efforts in increasing production of staple food supplies by means of building more irrigation systems and providing farmers with fertilizers. The relationship between tenants and landlords, he said, were being improved through the assistance of the Agricultural Tenancy Commission.

The Chief Executive added that ameliorating the living conditions of the people would make them happy and contented and this was one effective way of preventing them from becoming dissidents.

President Magsaysay gave his extemporaneous remarks in Tagalog at the unveiling of the marker of the Demetrio S. Santos Memorial Hospital and of the life-size portrait of the late Demetrio S. Santos at the Pampanga Sugar Mills central in Del Carmen, Pampanga. Mrs. Demetrio S. Santos officiated at the ceremonies honoring her late husband in whose memory the PASUMIL hospital was renamed. It was formerly known as the Spreckels Hospital.

In brief remarks, Mrs. Santos expressed her gratitude for the honor bestowed upon her late husband, who, she said, had lived and worked for the improvement of the lot of the poor people.

Geronimo Coronel, former mayor of Floridablanca, who also spoke, said that although in the last presidential election he voted for the late President Quirino, he was now endorsing the re-election of President Magsaysay because of the benefits which the President has given to the people, especially the poor. Coronel's open endorsement of the President's re-election was loudly applauded by the audience.

In his speech, the President paid tribute to the late Demetrio S. Santos for the love he had shown for the sugar planters and the poor tenants working in the sugar mills. He said that Santos had labored very hard in promoting social justice during his life.

Explaining his philosophy of life as one of sincere dedication to serve the people, especially the underprivileged, the President said that he has done everything within his power to accomplish this objective from the time he was a guerilla officer, during his incumbency as defense secretary, and up to the present time as chief executive. He said that he has treated all the people as if they were his own children, paying attention to their needs.

In the past, the President said, the poor had been like small parts of a machine which had not been given proper care. He pointed out that now the Administration was giving the poor all the possible attention so that the entire nation, the rich and the poor alike, would function smoothly like a well-oiled machine and develop into a more prosperous nation.

The President expressed satisfaction that the PASUMIL is at present under an all-Filipino management which is dedicated to helping the poor and improving their lives. He said he was glad to learn that one of the first acts of the new PASUMIL management was the appropriation of some P50,000 to improve the hospital, facilities in order that the hospital could render better service to the workers.

The President announced that some P155 million has been made available for the completion of all irrigation projects of the government in order to increase national production and improve the country's economy. He revealed that he had approved the construction of a new irrigation system in sitio Tanag, barrio Pulungmasle, in Guagua, which will irrigate several hundreds of hectares of rice land in the area.

He asked the people of Del Carmen to cooperate with him in his effort to protect their interests and in improving their lot. He said that the moment their rights were trampled upon, they should not hesitate to inform him about the matter by telegram so that the wrong could be corrected immediately and justice given to them.

The President took off on the same helicopter for his return trip to Manila about 1:30 p.m. and reached Malacañang at 2 p.m.

August 4.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today intensified the Government's campaign for greater production of staple crops through irrigation as a potent weapon against the threat of communism to the Philippines.

The President this morning flew on a helicopter for the second consecutive day to barrio Quisao, Pililla, Rizal, where he inaugurated the irrigation system in the locality, arriving there at about 10 a.m. Addressing the barrio people in Tagalog, on an improvised platform, the President urged them to put in more effort in producing staple crops. He said that the people in the barrios and in the rural areas formed the backbone of the nation and that they played a very important role in developing the country's economy.

He explained that the Administration was constructing irrigation systems all over the country in its determination to improve the living conditions of the people, especially in the rural areas, by means of increasing their food supplies. He said that there was enough money for the construction of all these country-wide irrigation projects.

After his brief remarks, the President inspected the outlets of the P40,000 irrigation system. He was glad to know that the irrigation system would double the yield per hectare of the area it will service. The Quisao irrigation system will water some 500 hectares of land and benefit 1,600 families.

On hand to greet the President as he alighted from the helicopter were Mayors Jose M. Flora of Pililla and Teodoro Bernades of Tanay; Victorio Buan, president of the barrio council; Cornelio Berlanga, president of the Quisao irrigation association; Dominador Rossel, a representative of the Department of Public Works and Communications; and Lt. Col. Francisco Isidro, commanding officer of the 8th BCT.

The barrio people who welcomed the President at the barrio plaza did not mind the drizzle. This was the first time that chief executive of the Philippines ever set foot in their barrio.

Accompanying the President on the helicopter were W. E. Menefe, general manager of the CALTEX; J. P. Roxas and Lorenzo Seville, both of CALTEX, and Maj. Jose Estrella, presidential aide.

Before returning to Manila, the President had lunch at the house of Teodoro Binanes, treasurer of the Quisao Irrigation System Association, during which the President inquired into the problems of the barrio people. He promised them two prefabricated school houses, a puericulture center, and barrio roads.

The President returned to Malacañang by helicopter, landing on Malacañang Park about 1:15 p.m.

August 5.—AFTER gruelling trips to points north and south of Manila the last two days, the President rested in Malacañang this day.

He had breakfast with his family after hearing mass at the Malacañang chapel.

Later, the President stayed in his bedroom, where he read the morning papers and went over pending state papers made up mostly of telegrams from, people in the provinces seeking aid on various problems.

Coming upon a telegram from Gov. Valeriano Gatuslao of Negros Occidental reporting on a road tragedy early this morning wherein 23 persons were killed in a collision of buses in Silay, the President acted swiftly to extend aid to the 27 injured survivors of the accident.

He immediately directed Armed Forces brain specialists to rush to the scene of the road mishap and assist the injured. Lt. Col. Melchor Javier was directed to emplane immediately for Silay with assistants to carry out the President's directive.

The President also instructed Maj. Arsenio Castillo, PC provincial commander of Negros Occidental, to conduct a thorough investigation of the mishap. The Chief Executive also told Maj. Castillo to coordinate his work with that of the representative of the Motor Vehicles Office and to report to him their findings as soon as possible.

August 6.— AT a Malacañang breakfast conference today, President Magsaysay and Congress leaders heard Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia report that the Philippine panel on the negotiation of the bases agreement has formally adopted the Magsaysay-Nixon statement last July 3 as its basic guidepost during the talks.

Vice-President Garcia, who is chairman of the Philippine panel, said the Philippine group has formally advised the U. S. Government of its position in a diplomatic note.

President Magsaysay and U. S. Vice-President Richard M. Nixon, during the latter's visit to Manila last July for the tenth anniversary of Philippine Independence, issued a joint statement on U. S. bases in this country which laid down three principles to guide the coming negotiations. These principles adopted by the Philippine panel as its guidepost follow:

(1) The existence of a system of United States bases in the Philippines has been, and continues to be, a matter of mutual interest and concern to the two countries, for the purpose of insuring their common defense pursuant to the principles of the United Nations.

(2) In consonance with this mutuality of interest and concern, certain land areas in the Philippines have been and are being used by the United States as bases. The Philippine Government will contribute for use in accordance with the terms of the Military Bases Agreement, the additional land which is deemed necessary by both governments for the strengthening of the bases system; the United States will turn over to the Philippine Government those areas listed in the Military Bases Agreement which the parties may hereafter agree are no longer needed. In addition, the United States has contributed and will contribute such personnel, equipment and physical facilities as may be necessary for the effective maintenance of such bases for the defense of the Philippines and the United States in this area.

(3) The United States has, since the independence of the Philippines, always acknowledged the sovereignty of the Philippines over such bases; and expressly reaffirms full recognition of such Philippine sovereignty over the bases. Further, the United States will transfer and turn over to the Philippines all title papers and title claims held by the United States to all land areas used either in the past or at present as military bases except those areas which may now or will be used by the United States for its diplomatic and consular establishment. Such transfer of title papers and title claims will not affect the use of the bases in accordance with the terms of the Military Bases Agreement.

Vice-President Garcia also told the breakfast-conference that all members of the Philippine panel have been and will be given complete freedom to air their views during discussions within the group on the various aspects of the negotiations. It has been agreed among the panel, however, that as soon as all views have been heard and the group has taken a definite stand on any of these aspects, such a stand shall represent the position of the entire panel. Garcia said this position will then be expressed to the U. S. panel by the particular spokesman for that particular aspect of the negotiations.

Garcia said that during the negotiations there will be a special spokesman in the panel for every individual subject to be taken up but that there will be one overall spokesman for the entire panel.

In addition to the present composition of the panel, the conference also approved the membership of Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao and Press Secretary J. V. Cruz, who will take charge of information. Earlier, Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez had replaced Caesar Lanuza in the panel.

The conference also agreed that President Magsaysay would designate a special assistant on reparations to take charge of administering the initial phase of the reparations program. This assistant would be aided by a staff to be composed of NEC personnel and other government technical personnel to be detailed to this work. An organization plan for such a staff will be drawn up by the NEC under Sen. Gil J. Puyat, presiding officer, and will then be presented to the President for approval. The House special committee on reparations, headed by Rep. Jose J. Roy, will assist in the preparation of this plan. The NEC also will recommend to the President interim policies to guide the initial administration of the reparations program.

The conference further agreed that Cesar Lanuza, NEC planning director, will be detailed to Tokyo, Japan, to take charge of that end of the program. Lanuza will be provided with the necessary staff from existing government offices.

For the present, no special session of Congress is contemplated by the President.

Present at the conference, lasting from 8:15 a.m. to 10 a.m., were President Magsaysay, Vice-President Garcia, Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr.; Sens. Cipriano Primicias, Gil J. Puyat, Jose P. Laurel, Francisco A. Delgado, and Emmanuel Pelaez; Reps. Arturo M. Tolentino, Jose J. Roy, and Miguel Cuenco; Press Secretary J. V. Cruz and Legislative Secretary Jose C. Nable.

The President this morning swore into office Brig. Gen. Pelagio A. Cruz, who had been recently designated as director of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA). Gen. Cruz was formerly commanding general of the Air Force.

The President also swore in Manuel E. Castañeda as chairman of the Land Tenure Administration. Castañeda's appointment was confirmed during the third regular session of the Third Congress. After the oath-taking, Castañeda also brought to the attention of the President some matters regarding negotiations for the purchase of some landed estates.

The President received Thomas M. Davis of the Smith, Kline, and French International Company of Philadelphia, who informed the President that his company was donating to the Philippine Government in the next few months medicines worth approximately P70,000. This donation will consist of chlorpromazine hydrochloride tablets and ampules under the trade name of *Thorazine* and will be used for clinical evaluation at the National Mental Hospital.

Davis, who has been in Manila conferring with officials of the Oceanic Commercial, Inc., was accompanied to Malacañang by John G. Drimo and Francis H. Clemenson, in charge of SKF local public relations. They took up with the President the mental health situation in the Philippines and the great hope being offered by recent developments in the field of medicine for the care of the mentally ill.

The President expressed gratification over the offer of those medicines which may prove beneficial in curing mentally defective patients. The President said he would be glad to accept the donation.

The President then received a delegation of students from Southeast Asian countries who are studying various courses at the University of the Philippines.

The delegation was headed by Prof. Andres L. Abejo, secretary-treasurer of the board of scholarships and exchange professors for Southeast Asia. Abejo, who spoke on behalf of the group, said that the students came to express their admiration for the President for his accomplishments for the common people. He added that the students admired the heartfelt hospitality and genuine interest which the Filipinos had shown them and they were grateful for the opportunity accorded them to know the Philippines and for the training they were receiving to enable them to be of service to their countries. The students, Abejo said, will be like ambassadors of goodwill for the Philippines.

The students came attired in the colorful costumes of their native countries. The President shook hands with all of them and inquired about their respective countries. He also asked what fields of studies they were studying at the University of the Philippines. He thanked them for their courtesy call and for their expression of gratitude.

The President received his regular callers past 10 o'clock, after his breakfast conference with Congress leaders. He received a continuous stream of callers up to past 12 noon.

One of the President's callers was eight-year old Gemma Meñez, who is sick with congenital heart disease and could not pursue her studies at the Sta. Rosa College. She asked the President to help her be cured. Immediately the President directed his aides to contact the V. Luna General Hospital to make the necessary arrangements for the little girl's hospitalization. Miss Meñez was accompanied by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Francisco Menez of Quirino District, Quezon City.

A delegation from the Philippine Trade Unions Council headed by Jose J. Hernandez, secretary-general, also called on the President. The delegation invited the President to address the PTUC's third annual constitutional convention on its opening day, August 19, at the National Press Club building. The delegation also requested the President to nominate Emmanuel A. Clave as labor representative in the board of directors of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation. The nomination was recommended by Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevos.

The President told Assistant Executive Secretary Enrique C. Quema to study the matter.

A delegation from the Cardona (Rizal) barrio council headed by Mayor Constancio F. Concepcion, requested the President to give them some 500 bags of cement which would be used in reclaiming foreshore areas in Cardona, Rizal, to convert their pier into a barrio plaza for barrio Lambac. This work was being done on a self-help project being undertaken by the barrio people. The chairman of the barrio council is Damaso D. Geronimo.

Cornelio Apacible, general chairman of the Philippine Sugar Technologists invited the President to be the main speaker on the opening day of the 4th postwar annual convention of the association, August 22 to 25, at the Manila Hotel. The PHILSUTECH is an association composed of sugar technologists researchers, chemists, factory administrators, and agriculturists dedicated to the welfare of the sugar industry.

Gov. Esmeraldo Eco of Camarines Norte, together with Board Members Marcial Pimentel and Rafael de la Cruz, also called on the President. They asked aid for their province.

The Laguna Water Power Company delegation headed by its president Wilfred Demers, called on the President to inquire about the decision of the government regarding the Caliraya water rights. The President called by telephone Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, who had looked into the matter. He added that he would follow up the details so that an early decision would be given.

Others in the delegation were Carlos A. Barretto, James C. McCall, John Eddington, Ernesto V. Santos, and Miss Pilar Yruretagoyeno. The delegation was accompanied by Ben Estrella.

Another caller was Miss Mary Waterous, a professor on soil conservation who has been in the Philippines for sometime. She said that she had observed the wonderful work being made by the President and she congratulated the Chief Executive for what he was doing for the people. She said that she had hoped to meet the President personally and this morning's courtesy call made that hope a reality.

A delegation of the Sambrano Transportation Employees Association headed by Catalino S. Ocampo, president; Roman Concepcion, vice-president; Palmarin Garcia, secretary; and Alfredo Formoso, treasurer, called on the President.

The delegation said that the Bureau of Internal Revenue had confiscated all the assets of the Sambrano Transportation Company of Vigan, Ilocos Sur, thus throwing to the streets some 2,000 men. They said that the management had offered to make good the delinquent taxes of the company which had brought about the confiscation of the assets of the company but that the Bureau of Internal Revenue had turned down the offer and had chosen to close the company. They asked the President to intervene for them. The President said he would study the matter immediately.

A delegation from Biñan, Laguna, headed by Martin Reyes, complained to the President that some 25 hectares of land near the shore was being measured by the Bureau of Lands as townsite reservation. They petitioned that the land being measured be retained as pasture land for their animals to graze.

The President called up Lands Director Zoilo Castrillo to stop the survey of the land.

Evaristo A. Cañada complained to the President that he had allegedly been beaten up by a certain Captain Zarosa of Davao. The President ordered the matter investigated immediately.

A delegation of the Water Pilots Association headed by Capt. J. H., Acayan, chief pilot, paid a courtesy call on the President. The delegation consisting of six waterfront pilots was accompanied by Customs Commissioner Manuel P. Manahan.

Sen. Francisco Rodrigo also called on the President.

CHAIRMAN Manuel E. Castañeda of the Land Tenure Administration told President Magsaysay this morning his office was set to appeal for a reasonable reduction in the price of the government-expropriated Yaptinchay estate in Carmona, Cavite.

The intended appeal to the Court of Appeals was disclosed by Castaneda when the President's intervention for the early payment of the purchase price was asked by the Yaptinchay and Almada families which own the property.

The land tenure administrator pointed out to the President that no property of similar category previously acquired by the government through expropriation was ever paid at such a high price as fixed by the court in the Yaptinchay hacienda. To prove his point, Castaneda cited the contradictory reports of the three commissioners specially appointed to appraise the Yaptinchay estate. Besides, tenant-purchasers could not pay the government at these prices approved by the court.

Expropriation proceedings for the acquisition of the 466-hectare Yaptinchay property were instituted in behalf of the government by the defunct Rural Progress Administration in 1948 at the behest of tenants in said land. The court of first instance of Cavite, in a decision handed down last month approving the expropriation, set the price at P5,000 per hectare for the residential portion of the estate, P4,000 per hectare for the irrigated rice-land, and P2,000 per hectare for the sugarland.

Upon receipt of the court decision and noting the price as fixed by it, the three members of the LTA unanimously passed a resolution to appeal the case only as far as the price was concerned.

Castañeda informed President Magsaysay that the tenant-occupants of the estate will be so burdened by the amount as set by the court that he expressed grave doubts about their being able to meet their amortization to the government. He said that the burden to be exacted on the tenants by the price is against the spirit envisioned in the land reform law.

The President was also informed by the land tenure chairman that the LTA will also seek the fair determination of the price for the Cacho property in Tarlac over which the owner and the government had preliminary negotiations sometime last month.

The President had given Castañeda the go-signal for the acquisition of Hacienda Cacho provided it could be had at a reasonable price.

IN the afternoon, the President reiterated before delegates to the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession that he was “very strong for having one national language in the Philippines in order to foster closer understanding and stronger ties among the Filipino people.”

The President gave this remark on the occasion of a reception and tea which the President and the First Lady gave in honor of the WCOTP delegates. Mrs. Magsaysay, who is still in a period of mourning over the death of her late sister, could not attend the reception.

In another speech the other week, when he awarded medals and diplomas to outstanding Filipino writers in Tagalog at Malacañang, the President had strongly advocated the nationwide use of Tagalog as the national language of the Philippines. He repeated the same sentiment before the WCOTP delegates this afternoon. He was applauded for his remarks.

In the course of his informal talk with the delegates, the President inquired about conditions obtaining in the different countries they represented. Afterwards, he congratulated Sir Ronald Gould of Great Britain for having been reelected unanimously as president of the world organization.

During the reception, the President went around the reception hall and greeted each delegate. Roman Lorenzo, president of the Public School Teachers Association, introduced the President to the delegates. Afterwards, the President posed for pictures with individual groups of delegates representing different countries.

Then the President entertained his guests with a merienda.

The delegates were led by Sir Gould; William G. Carr, secretary-general of WCOTP; Mr. Lorenzo; Ricardo Castro, executive secretary-treasurer of the Public School Teachers Association; and Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr.

The delegates paid a courtesy call on the President on the last day of their conference in Manila. There were 92 delegates from 34 countries who attended the conference and some 37 foreign observers.

EARLIER, about 4 p.m., the President swore in at the Malacañang reception room Associate Justice Jose Gutierrez David as *ad interim* presiding justice of the Court of Appeals and Fred Ruiz Castro as *ad interim* associate justice of the Court of Appeals. The President congratulated the newly-sworn in officials.

The oath-taking was attended by immediate members of the families of the inductees and high government officials, including Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon, Supreme Court Justice Alfonso Felix, Solicitor General Ambrosio Padilla, and Immigration Commissioner Emilio Galang. All the other associate justices of the Court of Appeals were also present; namely, Justice Jose Ma. Paredes, Arsenio P. Dizon, Sotero Rodas, Dionisio de Leon, Buenaventura Ocampo, Felipe Natividad, Felix Martinez, Emilio Peña, Querube C. Makalintal, Conrado V. Sanchez, Fernando Hernandez, and Florentino Saguin.

August 7.—AFTER a closed door breakfast conference this morning with Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., the President left Malacañang for an undisclosed place.

Malacañang did not say where the President went and what subjects were taken up at the breakfast conference. It merely said the President left the Palace to study “the steps to be taken to implement the reparations agreement with Japan.”

Before leaving Malacañang, the President requested Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia to take over the chores of receiving the scheduled callers.

It was observed that many callers, mostly solons, left the Palace after being informed that the President was out and that it was the Vice-President who was at the study room receiving visitors.

THE first delegation which the Vice-President received was from Pasay City headed by Mayor Pablo Cuneta and Vice-Mayor Ruperto Galvez. Speaking for the delegation, Cuneta said that a President Magsaysay-for-Re-election-Organization (PMRO) was organized in Pasay City to work for the re-election of the President.

Most of the callers were provincial delegations which requested aid for irrigation systems, artesian wells, barrio roads, school houses, and other public works projects.

Among the delegations were the Capiz officials headed by Rep. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing and Gov. Jose Dinglasan; Cagayan farmers with Rep. Paulino Alonzo and Gov. Marcelo Adduru; Sorsogon officials led by Rep. Vicente Peralta and Gov. Juan Frivaldo; Antique officials headed by Rep. Tobias Fornier and Gov. Josue L. Cadia; Batangas delegation with Rep. Apolinario Apacible and ex-Gov. Vicente Noble; some residents of Cabuyao, Laguna, with Rep. Jacobo Gonzales and Mayor Mauro Alimagno; Quezon delegation with Rep. Leon Guinto, Jr.; and a large group of Pampanga residents accompanied by Gov. Rafael Lazatin.

A courtesy caller was Jorge Hellyer, director of the USIS in the Far East. The Vice-President conversed with Hellyer, who was accompanied by William Copeland of the U. S. Embassy, for about five minutes.

Other callers included Sen. Quintin Paredes, Reps. Serafin Salvador of Rizal and Cesar Fortich of Bukidnon, City Mayor Justiniano Borja of Cagayan de Oro City, Australian Ambassador Keith Charles Owen Shann, and Kenneth Dolarhide, president of the Reynolds Philippine Corporation.

Vice-President Garcia was aided by Assistant Executive Secretary Enrique C. Quema and Technical Assistant Sofronio Quimson in attending to the needs and requests of the callers.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today directed Director Laureano Marquez of the Bureau of Animal Industry to fly tomorrow morning to Samar to look into reports that some 7,550 carabaos had been struck down by hemorrhagic septicemia in 15 municipalities in northern Samar. The President instructed Marquez to take the necessary measure to stop the epidemic and prevent its spread to other localities.

THE President spent the whole day today studying the steps to be taken to implement the reparations agreement with Japan. The President is still waiting for the recommendations from the National Economic Council on the policy to be adopted in the implementation of the agreement.

At the Cabinet meeting last Wednesday, the President told the Cabinet members to submit a list of the items urgently needed by their respective departments. It is possible the Cabinet members will submit their lists at the Cabinet meeting tomorrow.

August 8.—THE President did not receive callers this day because of the regular meeting of the Cabinet which has been advanced to 9 a.m. instead of 10 a.m. since about four weeks ago.

However, the President conferred with Malacañang key officials on various state problems before he presided over the meeting of his Cabinet.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay at the Cabinet meeting today ordered the creation of rural electrification unit within the National Power Corporation to take charge of supplying cheap electric fluid to the barrios and the rural areas.

This step was taken by the President in anticipation of the coming inauguration of the Ambuklao Hydroelectric Plant, which will then be in a position to supply electric current for Luzon. The President created this unit to implement his long-standing project of rural electrification.

Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno and NPC General Manager Filemon Zablan had earlier held preliminary talks regarding the functions of this unit. It will be charged with the duty of planning the most feasible system of distributing power to promote electrification of the barrios and the rural areas. It will advise on the distribution of electric power at the cheapest possible rates for the ultimate benefit of the consumer.

It is believed that this unit, which will consist of personnel already with the NPC, will be of great help to the farmers and barrio people by helping them operate more efficiently and profitably their home industries and irrigate their farms through the use of electric pumps.

According to plans, this new unit will also explore the feasibility of distributing electric fluid in places where there are no franchise holders. It will also eventually work for the cheapening of electric current in places where there are franchise holders who charge high rates.

The President also directed Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno to Streamline the regulations of his department to avoid red tape, especially in the construction of small public works projects, like barrio roads and school houses, in order to hasten the rural development program of the Administration.

The President issued this order upon receiving reports that some barrio roads were not being constructed immediately because of delays caused by routine regulations. He said that office rules regarding this matter should be revised and simplified to enable local governments to proceed with their small construction projects without unnecessary red tape caused by consultations with the central office.

“I want the construction of public works projects in the barrios speeded up to hasten the development of the rural areas and I do not want any unnecessary regulations which will set back these projects,” the President said.

Secretary Moreno said that he would implement the order immediately and that, as a matter of fact, he had been doing his best to pattern the policy of his office along the President’s line of thinking.

The President in this connection told NEC Executive Director Andres Hizon to expedite the immediate release of all appropriations already approved by the Council of State for irrigation constructions. He said that the principal objective of the government was to increase production and this could be done principally through irrigation.

He emphasized that the Government was doubling its efforts in helping the people increase their production of staple crops; so he wanted all officials concerned to do everything in their power to accelerate the implementation of this government objective.

“The primary aim of the Government is increased production. All of us should not stop working until we have achieved this end,” the President said.

President Magsaysay presided over the Cabinet meeting held at the family dining room from a little before 10 a.m. up to past 1 p.m.

At the meeting, the President:

(1) Hurried up his Cabinet members to submit their listing of equipment and services required, by their respective departments to be taken from reparations from Japan. He gave them an extension of two days within which to hand in their reports to the NEC. The President also announced that private entities and business concerns could submit their own listings of requirements to the NEC which, in turn, will make an overall listing of the nation's requirements;

(2) Emphasized to the Cabinet, especially to Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, chairman of the CB Monetary Board, that the ruling promulgated by the Cabinet last Wednesday, August 1, to the effect that only those new industries which can fill at least 60 per cent of their raw material requirements locally should be allocated dollars for their equipment and machinery is prospective, and not retroactive, in its effect;

(3) Issued a directive detailing Metropolitan Water District Manager Manuel Mañosa to Malacañang as a technical adviser on waterworks and sanitary engineering; and

(4) Told Social Welfare Administrator Amparo Villamor to send additional aid to victims of floods and rat infestation in Cotabato.

During the Cabinet meeting, the President signed the *ad interim* appointment of Vicente Abad Santos as judge of the court of first instance of Malay-balay, Bukidnon. He also signed the *ad interim* appointments of Ceferino Gaddi and Dominador Quiroz as solicitors in the Office of the Solicitor-General, and the *ad interim* appointment of Alejo Aquino as member of the board of directors of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation.

President Magsaysay and the Cabinet approved the sale of lots and cottages in Jungle Town in Baguio.

At the Cabinet meeting, the President reiterated to his department secretaries the need for hurrying up their work in preparing the lists of reparations requirements. He said that no day should be wasted because of the time limit set in the reparations agreement granting only 60 days from July 23 to submit these requirements for the first year.

The Cabinet members asked the President for an extension of time because of the difficulty in securing the necessary data. The President gave them two days extension.

The President directed Mrs. Villamor to increase the amount of aid to be sent to Cotabato for the sufferers of typhoons and for the rat victims. The SWA head said that an additional amount of aid would be sent immediately and that she was sending another team to Cotabato to supervise the distribution of relief. This, she said, was in addition to the relief work already being done in that province.

IN the afternoon, the President stayed in his bedroom and went over pending state papers which had accumulated the last few days.

Irked by newspaper reports that “influential members” had demanded the disclosure of a letter he had received from U. S. Undersecretary of State Walter S. Robertson, the President summoned his press secretary and directed him to issue a statement that the missive did not contain anything of “public significance.”

The President said the letter did not come from the U. S. Undersecretary of State but from the U. S. deputy secretary of defense, Reuben Robertson, and that the letter contained merely greetings and wishes.

PRESS Secretary J. V. Cruz released this afternoon the following statement:

An afternoon paper reports today that “influential members of the Senate” have voiced “a demand for the disclosure by Malacañang of the full text of a recent official communication from the U. S. Department of State which reportedly has an important bearing on the upcoming military bases talks.”

“The communication in question,” the report continues, “was sent to President Magsaysay by U. S. Undersecretary of State Water S. Robertson. It was personally handed last week to the Chief Executive by Karl S. Ben-detsen, personal representative of the U. S. Department of State and Department of Defense in the American panel of negotiators on the military bases.”

Mr. Bendetsen did hand a letter to President Magsaysay last week. The letter did not come, however, from U. S. Undersecretary of State Walter S. Robertson (who, incidentally, is actually a deputy U. S. secretary of state). The letter was from Reuben Robertson, deputy U. S. secretary of defense.

Deputy Secretary Robertson’s letter was personal in nature and conveyed his greetings and best wishes to the President. They met each other and became friends when Mr. Robertson recently visited Manila. Mr. Robertson’s letter is an expression and renewal of his friendship. It has not been released by Malacañang because it is of no public significance.

August 9.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today discussed the expansion of trade between the Philippines and Japan with members of the goodwill mission of the Philippine Society of Japan headed by former Ambassador Shozo Murata.

The Japanese Goodwill Mission included several businessmen. Murata, who was Japanese ambassador here during the war, informed the President that Japan could import Virginia tobacco, sugar, and cotton from the Philippines.

Upon being told by the President that the Philippines was planting plenty of Virginia tobacco and could afford to export some, Murata said that Japan could import 10 million pounds of Virginia tobacco from the Philippines.

The President showed the Japanese samples of cotton being planted in Mindanao and the Ilocos region. Impressed by the samples, the Japanese said that they could also use Philippine cotton. They told the President that Japan was also importing sugar.

Other matters taken up by the President with the Japanese Goodwill Mission were:

- (1) The coming here of a representative of Japanese war widows to gather the ashes of about 600,000 Japanese who died in the Philippines from 1942 to 1945;
- (2) Possible exchange of pensionados and athletes between the Philippines and Japan; and
- (3) The need to maintain continuous good relations between the two countries.

The President received the Japanese in the music room of Malacañang and conversed with them from 9:35 to 10:10 a.m. The Japanese mission presented to the President a gift for Mrs. Magsaysay, a small transistor radio, and a plaque from the Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce congratulating the President for his “deed in securing a solid foundation for everlasting good relation between the peoples of the Philippines and Japan.”

The President also told the Japanese that artesian wells, pumps and pipes for irrigation systems, and ships would be included in the reparations list

Members of the mission who called on the President were Shozo Murata, president of the Philippine Society; Takeo Ito, president of Osaka Shosen Kaisha and councilor of the society; Chotaro Arakawa, member of the society and president of the Arakawa Gornie Kaisha; Masao Okaya, councilor of the society and president of the Okaya Koki Kaisha; Koichi Okuma, member of the society and president of the Okuma Iron Works; Eijiro Namikawa, director of the society and president of the Pacific Mining Company; Yuko Jiromaru, member of the society and managing director of the Nisshin Tsusho Company; Seizaburo Yamanaka, director of the society; Tsuneo Yamamoto, managing director of the society; Itsuo Kubodera, member of the society and director of the Marubeni Iida and Company; Masano Ito, chief of the women members of the society; Midori Nishizaki, president of the Nishizaki Ballet Research Institute; Shizuko Hasegawa, member of the society; Kano Kohchi, member of the society and auditor of the Bank of Tokyo; Sazao Shiozawa, member of the society and sub-manager of the Tokyo branch of the Toyo Menka and Company; and Kasuma Nakayama, councilor of the society. The mission members were accompanied by Counselor Toshio Urabe of the Japanese Embassy.

The Philippine Society of Japan is an association dedicated to the promotion of friendly relations between the Philippines and Japan.

AFTER receiving the Japanese, the President proceeded to his study room, where he met his callers many of whom were members of provincial delegations accompanied by their respective congressmen and mayors.

Among the provincial delegations, which requested the President aid for their irrigation projects, artesian wells, barrio roads, puericulture centers, school buildings, and other public works projects, were the Capiz delegation headed by Rep. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing and Gov. Jose Dinglasan; municipal officials of Zamboanga del Norte, accompanied by Sen. Roseller T. Lim and Gov. Bienvenido Ibarle; Isabela farmers with Rep. Samuel Reyes; Masbate officials with Rep. Mateo Pecson; Lopez, Quezon, residents with Rep. Leon Guinto, Jr., and Mayor Gregorio Yumol; municipal officials of Sorsogon, including Mayors Quirico A. Carrascal of Magallanes and Restituto Rebuena of Castillo and Rev. Francisco Hermida of Butiao, accompanied by Rep. Vicente Peralta; Bataan delegation composed of ex-Governor Adelmo Camacho, Board Members Faustino Vigo and Raymundo Galicia, and others; residents of Paombong, Bulacan, with Mayor Magno Gatchalian; and the Naic, Cavite, municipal officials led by Mayor Macario Peña.

Mayor Dominador Valois of Famy, Laguna, also accompanied a delegation from his town and requested the President aid for the conversion of the swamp in barrio Maimit into a farm or several fishponds. The President gave aid for the project.

A helmet liner made out of materials from coconut trunks was shown to the President by Nestor Cruz of the Affiliated Industries. The President was impressed by the locally manufactured helmet liner and sent the inventor to the Army to see if they could use the helmet liner so that they would no longer have to import it. Henry Young, an American who was with Mr. Cruz, also showed the President samples of sweet preserves made from coconut meat and milk.

Other callers of the President included Reps. Gaudencio Abordo of Palawan, Ricardo Ladrado of Iloilo, Mateo Pecson of Masbate, Manuel Cases of La Union, Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur, Serafin Salvador of Rizal, Manuel Enverga of Quezon, Jose Puey of Occidental Negros, Emilio Cortez of Pampanga, and Enrique Corpus of Zambales, and Nicanor A. Roxas; consul general to San Francisco, California.

UPON the request of President Magsaysay this morning a seaplane manned by Sangley Point base personnel was dispatched to Romblon, Romblon, where an accident victim reportedly needed immediate air-lifting to Manila for medical assistance.

The President's action came following receipt of a report from Gov. Manuel Solidum stating that Andres Molino, a Romblon resident, had figured in an accident and was in serious condition.

The patient will be airlifted to Manila and will be brought to the Philippine General Hospital.

Among the personnel in the seaplane were Lt. Cdr. H. G. Treon, pilot; Lt. Cdr. J. K. Bywater, co-pilot; and Lt. R. S. MacDonald, medical officer.

THE President this day directed officials of the Bureau of Public Libraries to submit to him an estimate of the cost of a building to house the division of archives.

The President expressed concern over the dilapidated quarters of the archives division at the old Bilibid compound which leaks and easily gets flooded when it rains.

At the same time, the President also told the bureau officials to inform him how much money they needed for additional book-cases, shelves, personnel, and other necessary materials for the archives division, to safeguard the documents until the proposed building is finished.

Construction of the proposed building will be started as soon as the estimate and plans are submitted.

BENEDETTO D'Acunzo this afternoon presented to President Magsaysay his credentials as Italian ambassador to the Philippines in ceremonies held at Malacañang.

D'Acunzo's presentation of his credentials followed the mutual elevation of the Italian Legation in Manila and the Philippine Legation in Rome to the category of embassy. President Magsaysay, in his acceptance speech, said: "Inis is a tacit recognition of the importance which our two countries attach to the need for closer and strengthened relations in the political, social, cultural, and economic fields, in view of the significant role that Asian nations have to play in world affair."

In this connection, Malacañang announced that Manuel Alzate, minister to Rome, who has the personal rank of ambassador, will be the charge d'affaires of the Philippine Embassy in Rome, pending the elevation of his official rank to that of ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary.

In presenting his credentials, D'Acunzo said that the weight of the Asian nations "is destined to be felt ever more whenever the foundations of the fate of humanity are cast." He added that, "Among the Asian powers, the Republic of the Philippines emerges before the eyes of Occidentals for a particular reason. She is, in fact, not only by her geographical position, but also principally by her cultural formation and her moral concept of life, the natural bridge between the Occidental hemisphere and the Oriental one."

The Italian Ambassador arrived at Malacañang at 4:30 p.m. and was given military honors by the Presidential Guards Battalion, before he presented his credentials at the ceremonial hall. Among the high government officials present were Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia, Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon, Health Secretary Paulino Garcia, Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, Malacañang Protocol Officer Manuel G. Zamora, Counselor Octavio L. Maloles, Foreign Affairs Protocol Officer Jose Estrada, and Ceremonial Officer Pedro Angara-Aragon.

AFTER receiving the credentials of the Italian ambassador, the President met newspapermen in one of his off-and-on press conferences in Malacañang.

The conference dwelt lengthily on Egypt's "strong man", President Gamal Abdel Nasser, who had been pictured in a weekly magazine as "popular in his country as Magsaysay is in the Philippines."

Amused by the similarity, the President jokingly quipped: "The difference is that Nasser beat me to the draw."

The President appeared in high spirit.

During the press conference, the President announced the arrival shortly from United States of surplus commodities, and the increased capitalization of the National Marketing Corporation in a twin move to cripple profiteers and spectators. He reiterated his administration's policy to go after speculators and blackmarketeers for "sucking the blood of the poor people."

The President said negotiations had been completed for the purchase through a 30-year instalment plan of surplus prime commodities from the United States. He said that the goods were on their way to the Philippines.

He said he expected prices of prime commodities to slide down from artificial levels with the arrival shortly of important prime commodities from the United States. He said some of these goods were powdered milk, butter, and other prime necessities.

At the same time the President announced that the NAMARCO had been authorized to use P32 million to purchase prime commodities in order that it could flood the retail market with goods at reasonable prices.

During the press conference, the President also said that.

1. He was considering the appointment of H. B. Reyes as a member of the National Economic Council;
2. He had given the board of regents of the University of the Philippines a "free hand" in the selection of the President of the state university;
3. He had asked the National Economic Council to adopt the important features of both the Senate and the House bills on reparations in their plan of administrative setup of the proposed interim reparations office; and
4. Manuel Mañosa, MWD general manager, was detailed with Malacañang to prevent recurrence of conflicts in the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority.

The President also indicated that he may relieve Susano R. Negado of his position as NWSA general manager.

August 10.—OFFICERS and members of the Coordinating Council on Economic Nationalism urged President Magsaysay today to require the Central Bank Monetary Board, the Philippine National Bank, and the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation to submit to Malacañang a statement of policy for the implementation of positive economic nationalism.

The CCEN is a non-governmental organization composed of representatives from business, industry, labor, civic, and government groups. The officers and members, headed by Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevos, had a breakfast conference with the President this morning.

The request of the CCEN for a statement of policy for the implementation of economic nationalism was forwarded by the President to the government agencies concerned for study. At the conference, the President also:

- (1) Directed the release of an additional P5 million to the Department of Commerce and Industry for the retailers' fund to help Filipino retailers;
- (2) Referred to the National Economic Council for study and comment the suggestion of the GCEN that the National Marketing Corporation alone should be allowed to import flour and distribute it to flour dealers and bakers, because, according to CCEN members, aliens were in control of the importation of flour;
- (3) Told Filipino businessmen to take advantage of the loan provisions in the reparations agreement; and
- (4) Asked Filipino businessmen to submit a list of their reparations needs to the NEC.

The President congratulated the officers and members of the Coordinating Council on Economic Nationalism for having organized themselves into an association dedicated to the propagation of positive economic nationalism among the masses. He also lauded them for encouraging the people to support Philippine industries by buying locally manufactured goods.

The Chief Executive also told the businessmen members of the CCEN to take advantage of the reparations program and to put up their own factories for products like plywood and others being imported for local consumption.

The officers and members of the CCEN agreed unanimously on the request for a statement of policy for the implementation of positive economic nationalism at the breakfast conference and urged the President to forward the request to the government agencies concerned.

The additional P5 million for the retailers' fund will be taken from the general fund and will be used to help Filipino retailers.

Officers and members of the CCEN who had breakfast with the President included Secretary Adevosio, president; P. E. Domingo, vice-president, Teofilo Reyes, Sr., treasurer; Oscar Trinidad, secretary; Cesar Lorenzo, president of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines; Gabriel Daza, president of the NEPA and director; Cipriano Cid, president of PAFLU; ACCFA Chairman and General Manager Osmundo Mondofiedo; A. B. Isip of the Philippine Chamber of Industries; Hilarion Henares, Sr., of the Home Industries Association of the Philippines; E. V. Mendoza and German Neri, directors; Jose P. Fernandez, Dr. Alberto de Joya, Ricardo P. Portillo, Bias F. Ople, and PTUC Secretary-General Jose J. Hernandez, members.

AFTER the breakfast, the President received a 200-man delegation from Porac and Lubao, Pampanga; from Tarlac; and from Dinalupihan, Bataan, accompanied by Reps. Diosdado Macapagal and Constancio Castañeda. The Porac delegation complained to the President that their guerrilla outfits were still unrecognized, and submitted a petition requesting their possible recognition. . The President said he would study their petition. Others in the delegation requested aid for barrio roads and pre-fabricated school houses.

IN the afternoon, the President stayed in his bedroom and went over pending state papers.

August 11.—THIS morning, the President did not receive any visitors. He motored out of Malacañang about 9 a.m. with the intention to go horse-back riding on the Luneta. However, the morning rains frustrated his plans.

The President returned to the Palace where he relaxed the whole morning.

IN the afternoon, under a drizzling rain, the President motored to the H. G. Henares and Sons plant in Pasay City to attend its inauguration.

Speaking extemporaneously in the national language, the President paid tribute to the Filipino industrialists who had invested in the manufacture of pencils, blackboard erasers, water colors, crayola, carbon paper, and varnish.

The President was elated as the Henareses showed him around the factory. He observed workers putting the finishing touches to the manufacture of the various products.

In his brief remarks, the President said he was glad to find that Filipino laborers could manufacture goods that are exactly like those imported from abroad. He expressed the hope that more Filipino industries would pioneer in the industrialization of the country by undertaking the manufacture of articles which are still being imported.

The President said that he was using as much as possible products that are manufactured locally, including those of the H. G. Henares and Sons, and that he found them as good, if not better, than those imported. He urged Filipinos to patronize locally-made goods.

FROM the Henares plant, the President went to the new P2 million CALTEX building on Padre Faura and Dakota Streets in Ermita, Manila.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay in his speech at the CALTEX building inauguration said that the dedication of the new CALTEX building “expresses the faith and confidence of a great industrial organization in the future of our Republic.”

The President inaugurated the imposing P2 million home of CALTEX (Philippines), Inc. He also unveiled the marker of the CALTEX building, assisted by C. Roesholm, CALTEX president, and Manila Archbishop Rufino J. Santos, who had earlier blessed the building.

In his brief speech, the President said that the inauguration of the building bespoke the harmony and cordiality with which Filipinos and Americans worked together in promoting and providing for the needs of the country’s economic growth.

He added that it was a source of satisfaction for him that the CALTEX had demonstrated how readily its manpower needs, ranging from unskilled labor to the most specialized positions of responsibility, could be met by Filipinos.

The President said: “This fact, coupled with its policy of maintaining high standards of working conditions, makes this company a welcome partner in our economic development. To every member of the management and staff, my congratulations and best wishes for the future.”

The President was introduced by Mr. Roesholm, who explained the services which his company was rendering to the Philippines, including the employment of some 1,900 Filipinos supporting other thousands of dependents.

The unveiling ceremony was held at the CALTEX penthouse, where the President delivered his speech.

The President arrived at the CALTEX compound at 5:20 p.m. He was met at the ground floor by CALTEX officials, headed by Mr. Roesholm, Vice-President and Managing Director R. J. Monical, General Manager W. E. Menefee, General Manager (Operations) L. D. Josephson, Assistant General Manager J. M. Cleland, Public Relations Manager J. P. Roxas, Finance and Accounts Manager J. J. Walahan, and Personnel Manager E. M. Conway.

Mr. Roesholm conducted the President on a tour of the different parts of the building, including his well-appointed office, the air-conditioned cafeteria, and various offices of the employees.

The President left the CALTEX building past 6 p. m.

August 12—IN SPITE of the fact that today is Sunday, the President spent most of his time working on pending state papers which needed his immediate attention. He kept up the impression that there was no let up in his administration’s work. He issued at least one directive despite the usual Sunday lull.

After hearing early mass and eating breakfast with his family, the President issued the directive, emphasizing the ill-effects of indiscriminate cutting of trees.

The President directed Forestry Director Felipe R. Amos to intensify the Government’s campaign of reforestation.

The President this morning also conferred with Director Laureano Marquez of the Bureau of Animal Industry, who assured the Chief Executive that there was no epidemic in northern Samar, but that nevertheless his field men were vaccinating all susceptible animals in the area as a precautionary move to prevent the outbreak of the disease.

Expressing his concern over the ill effects of excess felling of trees which denudes mountainsides and will eventually result in soil erosion and other disastrous effects unless reforestation was done, the President told Director Amos to see to it that deforested areas were immediately replanted.

The Chief Executive told the forestry director to submit at the earliest time a report on the reforestation work accomplished by the bureau in the past two years. He added that there should be no letup in this work but that on the contrary more efforts should be exerted.

Director Marquez told President Magsaysay this morning that reports of a carabao disease epidemic in northern Samar were exaggerated and unfounded. He said that Dr. Gavino San Gabriel, chief of disease control of his bureau, had wired last August 9 from Catarman that there was no case in that town. In another telegram sent August 10 from Catubig, Dr. San Gabriel informed him that the situation in that place was not alarming, except for some sporadic cases.

The latest field report, according to Director Marquez, came from Dr. Osias Villaver, provincial veterinarian in Palapag, who wired that Mayor Gorgonio of that town had certified that during the last two months there has been no carabao mortality after the animals had been vaccinated.

However, Director Marquez told the President that his field veterinarians were busy vaccinating large animals and immunizing them from the disease. He said that some 2,500 large animals, including carabaos and cattle, had already been vaccinated during the past two months.

August 13.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning met members of civic organizations and private citizens who came to seek solutions and aid for their various problems.

A large group of non-Christian government pensionados studying in the different colleges and universities in Manila and the suburbs submitted a petition to the President seeking an increase in their appropriation. The President forwarded the petition to Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona for study and action. Another request of the pensionados was for an increase of their monthly allowances from P60 to P75 a month. The non-Christian pensionados, who came from 16 provinces, were accompanied by Sen. Roseller T. Lim and headed by Abdullah Kalis, president of the pensionados.

Officers and members of the Philippine Council of Science and Technology presented the President with a resolution pledging the manpower and resources of the member associations of their council to the Administration. The officers and members of the PHILCOST were headed by Dean Gregorio Zara, president; Carlos B. Navarro, vice-president for technology; and Benjamin P. Felix, vice-president for science.

Another group who called on the President was composed of the officers and members of the Foundation for the Blind of the Philippines, Inc., headed by Nicomedes Maligat; United Blind Association, Inc., headed by Amado S. Clemente; and the Philippine Blind, Deaf, Dumb, and Crippled Association, Inc., led by Julian G. Ramos.

The group submitted a petition to the President requesting a share from the proceeds of the April 1 to 17, 1956, "Aid to the Blind and Handicapped Week" fund campaign. They complained that they were not given their share by Social Welfare Administrator Amparo Villamor, who said that they were not entitled to a share under the proclamation authorizing the fund campaign. The President directed Mrs. Villamor to give the three associations their share from the fund campaign.

Two groups of farmers came from barrio San Jose, San Luis, Pampanga, and barrio Mabini, Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija. The San Luis farmers headed by Severino Aquino and accompanied by Tom Ortega requested two prefabricated school houses while the Sto. Domingo group asked for an irrigation system.

Representatives of ejected tenants of Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija, also called on the President and requested that the government buy the hacienda from which they had been ejected. The Chief Executive sent the tenants to Land Tenure Commissioner Manuel Castafieda for a fuller discussion of their problem. The tenants were accompanied by Onofre Guevarra.

Some MPM civic leaders of Hagonoy, Bulacan, accompanied by Blas F. Ople, requested an additional health officer for their town.

Other callers of the President included Reps. Lorenzo Teves of Negros Occidental, Bartolome Cabangbang of Bohol, Godofredo Ramos of Aklan, Augusto Francisco of Manila, Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz, Manuel Zosa and Ramon Durano of Cebu, and Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo; Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff; and Higinio Perez Ruiz of San Carlos Pangasinan.

President Magsaysay signed Proclamation No. 329, declaring the period from September 30 to October 6, 1956, as business and professional women's week, Malacañang announced today.

The President signed the order "in recognition of the important role being played by business and professional women in the promotion of the economic and social welfare of our country and people."

MALACAÑANG released the following today:

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETINGS:

KNOW YE, That reposing special trust and confidence in the integrity, prudence, and ability of the Honorable CARLOS P. GARCIA, Vice-President and concurrently Secretary of Foreign Affairs; the Honorable Emmanuel Pelaez, chairman, Committee on National Defense and Security of the Senate of the Philippines; the Honorable Francisco A. Delgado, chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate of the Philippines; the Honorable Miguel Cuenco, chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; the Honorable Numeriano Babao, chairman, Committee on National Defense of the House of Representatives; the Honorable Jaime Hernandez, secretary of finance; the Honorable Eulogio Balao, secretary of national defense; the Honorable J. V. Cruz, Press secretary; Lieutenant General Jesus Vargas, chief of Staff, AFP, Department of National Defense, and the Honorable Jesus Barrera, Undersecretary of Justice, I, Ramon Magsaysay, President of the Philippines, have appointed the first as chairman and the others as Members of the Philippine Panel of Negotiators, and have invested them with full and all manner of power and authority for, and in the name of, the Republic of the Philippines to meet and confer on military bases and other related matters with any person or persons duly authorized by the Government of the United States of America, being invested with like power and authority and with such person or persons to negotiate, conclude, and sign any acts or agreements that may be adopted in such negotiations. Such acts or agreements as may be signed by the Honorable Carlos P. Garcia and/or the members of the Philippine Panel of Negotiators under the present authority are to be transmitted to the President of the Philippines for further action in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the Philippines.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the seal of the Republic of the Philippines.

Done at the City of Manila, this 13th day of August, in the year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and fifty-six, and of the Independence of the Philippines, the eleventh.

RAMON MAGSAYSAY
President of the Philippines

By
RAUL
Undersecretary

the
S.

President:
MANGLAPUS

August 14.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today was informed by more than 200 coordinators and members of the Manila MPM that their organization was still united and loyal to him.

The MPM group, composed of leaders from the four districts of Manila, denied before the President that leaders of the organization ever endorsed somebody else's presidential candidacy as reported in the papers.

Patricio Senador, MPM metropolitan coordinator, and Rogelio Moskaira, Manila coordinator, renewed their organization's pledge of support to the President in 1957 and said "we will double our efforts for your re-election."

Replying to the pledge of support for his re-election, the President thanked them but said he was not thinking of 1957 at this time. That was still too far off, he said. He added that right now he was concentrating on the problems at hand which required his attention and solution.

The MPM members denied that they were present at a party at Panciteria Nacional recently and that they had switched their loyalty to somebody else.

Among those in the MPM group aside from Senador and Moskaira were Bert Jakosalem, MPM national liaison chief; A. B. Isip, MPM national operations director; Councilor Martin Manahan, Quezon City coordinator; Melecio Daealfos, Manila 3rd district coordinator; Leonardo Española and Gaby Ma. Sebastian, Manila 4th district coordinators; Gregorio A. Gonzales, Manila 1st district coordinator; Maj. Conrado Ilete, Manila 1st district deputy coordinator; Espiridion Burgante, 3rd district vice-coordinator; Jesus Garcia, Emilio Gonzales, Cesar L. Borromeo, Primitivo Siasat, Inocencio H. Gonzales, Jose Soriano; Delfin Manalapid, provincial coordinator of Bataan; and Jose Calderon, provincial coordinator of Nueva Vizcaya.

EARLIER, the President inducted Jose A. Dorado as acting mayor of Roxas City vice Ramon Blanco, resigned. The induction was witnessed by Rep. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing, Gov. Jose Dinglasan of Capiz, provincial officials, and friends and relatives of the new mayor.

REP. Ramon Mitra, Sr., Gov. Bado Dangwa, and Provincial Board Members Tomas L. Benafin and Teonlo Pilando accompanied a group of landless farmers from Mountain Province who requested the President a piece of land they can cultivate and own. The President directed the Bureau of Lands to study the request of the farmers.

Most of the callers of the President were provincial delegation which requested aid for various public works projects in their respective provinces. Among the delegations were the Marinduque municipal officials with Rep. Panfilo Manguera and Mayor Santiago Belarmino of Sta. Cruz; the Quezon group accompanied by Rep. Manuel Enverga; the Leyte delegation with Rep. Carlos Tan and Gov. Bernardo Torres; and the Bataan delegation with ex-Governor Adelmo Camacho.

The President received from Mrs. Paraluman S. Aspillera the first copy of her book, *Basic Tagalog*. Mrs. Aspillera, who saw the President with Miss Ligaya D. Perez, secretary of the "Panitik ng Kababaihan," is the director of the Institute of Filipino Language and Culture of the Philippine Women's University and society editor of the *Bagong Buhay*.

Other callers of the President included Sens. Quintin Paredes, Decoroso Rosales and Jose C. Zulueta; Reps. Cesar Fortich of Bukidnon, Constancio Castañeda of Tarlac, Wenceslao Lagumbay and Jacobo Gonzales of Laguna, Salvador Encinas and Vicente Peralta of Sorsogon, Reynaldo Honrado of Surigao, Bartolome Cabangbang of Bohol, Erasmo Cruz and Rogaciano Mercado of Bulacan, and Enrique Corpus of Zambales; Gov. Dominador Chipeco of Laguna; ex-Senator Tomas Cabili; and ex-Senator Justiniano Montano.

THE President this day declared the period from September 15 to 21, 1956, as Medicine Week and authorized the Philippine Medical Association to take charge of its observance.

The President in signing Proclamation No. 330 said that in order to fully develop a consciousness among the people of the value of scientific medical practices, "it is necessary that a period be set aside for the observance of the medical profession."

He also observed in his proclamation that the services and activities of the medical profession have been expanded to meet the growing public demand.

The Chief Executive called upon all citizens and residents to observe Medicine Week.

The President signed the proclamation in the presence of the Philippine Medical Association, which requested the holding of a medicine week to coincide with the nation-wide introduction of the “Free Medical Assistance to Indigents” project sponsored by the PMA.

Officers of the PMA who witnessed the signing of the proclamation were Dr. Fernando D. Manalo, president; Dr. Pedro Mayuga, vice-president for Luzon; Dr. Damaceno Ago, councilor; Dr. Romeo Atienza, councilor; Dr. Alberto Romualdez, secretary-treasurer; and Mamerto Banatin, administrative officer of the association.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today acted to speed up construction of two buildings to house the Bureau of Public Libraries, including the archives division, and the National Mental Hospital.

In a conference with Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., the President ordered the release of the necessary funds to construct a building for the National Library and its archives division on Taft Avenue. One million three hundred thousand pesos is ready for the construction of the building.

The President said that work on the plans for the building and the construction should be completed as soon as possible. He said that if the Department of Public Works and Communications, could not do the Work in due time, private architects would be hired by the Government, subject to public bidding.

Immediately after receiving the President’s order, Secretary Hernandez contacted Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno and discussed with him the proposed building. Secretary Moreno said that P100,000 had already been released for the initial expenses for plans of the building. The public works secretary explained that the P1.3 million came mostly from bond issue and some from the general revenue fund.

In a separate conference with Health Secretary Garcia, the President inquired into the conditions at the National Mental Hospital in Mandaluyong, Eizal. He ordered the National Economic Council to program and release as soon as possible P3 million from bond issue for the construction of a huge building for the mental hospital.

The Chief Executive also, directed Public Works Secretary Moreno to have laborers work 24 hours a day three shifts on the wing of the new National Mental Hospital which is now under construction in Mandaluyong. The new building however, would not be enough to accommodate all the patients. Seven hundred thousand pesos had already been released for the construction of the wing of the new hospital building.

The P3 million to be released for the construction of a big building for the mental hospital would be taken from the P8 million bond issue appropriated for such purpose. The P8 million will be released in five installments up to 1960.

The President also told the Department of Public Works and Communications to complete the plans for the proposed mental hospital building at the earliest time possible.

Meanwhile, the President ordered the Armed Forces to dispatch the 10th BCT to Tarlac because of the “worsening peace and order situation” in the entire province.

Rep. Constancio Castañeda, who requested for a BCT in his province, said’ that dissidents were roaming around the province because of the absence of enough soldiers to preserve peace and order. The 10th BCT, composed of Korean war veterans, would be sent to Tarlac from Cagayan Valley.

The President also conferred with Manila Railroad Co. General Manager Salvador Villa, who said that he would request railroad track materials like rails and rolling stock materials like baggage cars, passenger couches, and freight cars from the coming reparations goods.

Education Secretary Hernandez likewise told the President that his department would need equipment and machinery for vocational and agricultural schools and for home industries from the reparations goods.

August 15.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning signed the *ad interim* appointments of Damian Jimenez as municipal judge of Quezon City; Alejandro Fider, Ester Paredes, Santiago Tañada, and David Reyes, as fourth assistant attorneys of Quezon City; and Herminio Arendaña, as third assistant attorney, and Nestorio de Leon and Ernesto Bernabe, as fourth assistant attorneys, of Pasay City.

These appointments were made by the President in accordance with the revised charter of the two cities.

The President later received a delegation of the Manila MPM headed by Rogelio Moskaira, Manila coordinator of the MPM. Among those present were Mrs. Leonor Bernabe and Dr. Demetrio Cabrera, who had participated in the rally wherein the candidacy of a presidential aspirant had been launched.

The delegation told the President that they were still for President Magsaysay and that they were still loyal to him. They said that they attended the rally because they had been invited and that they had just performed a social obligation. They said they had always been for President Magsaysay.

Lobar Secretary Eleuterio Adevos, chief of the MPM, was present when the delegation called on the President.

THE President at the Cabinet meeting today directed the CB Monetary Board through its chairman, Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, to see to it that all legitimate businessmen be treated justly in the allocation of dollars.

The President said that the Monetary Board should act very carefully in considering requests for dollar allocations and must act with justice and fairness to all.

“I would like that the interests of both the “big businessmen and the small businessmen be attended to and taken care of justly and fairly,” the President said.

Secretary Hernandez said that the President’s directive would be fully implemented.

The President took steps to implement the government plan to finance overseas shipping in order to further develop the country’s economy. He appointed a committee composed of Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, RFC Chairman Eduardo Z. Romualdez, and NDC General Manager Jose H. Panganiban to study and report to the President on the request of the NDC for a P40 million loan for the acquisition of ocean-going vessels which the NDC intends to resell, lease, or charter to persons, associations, or corporations in consonance with the provisions of the Philippine Overseas Shipping Act.

The President told the committee to study the details of the plan for the financing of this overseas shipping and submit to him their report so that the government’s objective of providing enough bottoms for transporting Philippine products could be realized at the earliest possible date.

The President gave NEC Executive Director Andres Hizon two more days to complete his report and recommendations on the plans and policies to be adopted in the implementation of the reparations agreement with Japan. The preliminary report brought by Hizon was not complete; so the President told him to submit it upon its completion.

At the Cabinet meeting, the President decided on the administrative case filed against former Civil Aeronautics Administrator Urbano B. Caldoza by suspending him from office for three months with a warning that commission of similar offenses in the future would be sufficient grounds for dismissal from the service.

Caldoza had been charged with grave misconduct, oppression, and persecution by responsible officials of the CAA, namely: Zosimo H. Derpo, senior overseas communicator; Pedro S. Reyes, airport manager and chief of the Manila International Airport Division; Cesar A. Mijares, airline pilot; Juan A. Herrera, Jr., associate airways maintenance technician; and Juan Perez, chief of the cash and property section. The charges were investigated by Jesus Paredes as special investigator and the respondent was given full opportunity to defend himself.

Among the charges of which Caldoza was found guilty were:

(a) That he and his wife had received on several occasions non-revenue (free) round trip tickets for Hongkong (B.C.C.) and Taipei (Formosa) from the Philippine Airlines, the Cathay Pacific Airways, and the Civil Air Transport, over all of which he has some kind of supervision; and

(b) That on May 12, 1954, the respondent allowed Paterno M. Serrano, operations officer of the CAA, to deposit his personal funds in the amount of P2,500 with the cashier of the CAA; that subsequently the respondent submitted to the Central Bank a request for fiscal agency services in favor of Serrano in the amount of \$1,250 in connection with his trip to Europe as fellow of the ICAO; and that as a result, Serrano was able to take out of the country his personal funds amounting to \$1,250, exempt from the 17 per cent exchange tax.

On the other hand, the President acquitted former PHHC General Manager Vicente Fragante against whom charges had been filled. The President acted on the Fragante case upon recommendation of acting OEC Administrator Juan Concon, who said that there was no evidence to support the charges against Fragante.

The President directed PCAC Chairman Frisco San Juan to investigate reported anomalies in the construction of PHHC houses. It was reported that in some instances instead of using reinforcing steel bars in the PHHC houses, cement paper bags were used.

The President gave this directive after receiving a report from San Juan on the results of the investigation of anomalous disposition by a private contractor of NASSCO steel bars used in connection with the construction of PHHC projects.

According to San Juan, investigator Benjamin T. Ligot had found that one Fernando L. Vitug, a private contractor engaged by the PHHC to construct lowcost houses in Project 6, had purchased from the NASSCO 20 tons of steel bars, 1/2" X 30', upon authority of the Department of Public Works and Communications on the recommendation of the PHHC, with the condition that the bars were to be used in the PHHC construction. However, it was revealed in the investigation that the steel bars found their way to a private hardware dealer who had been previously authorized by Vitug to receive the bars from the NASSCO.

San Juan said that Vitug, by diverting the steel bars to the blackmarket, had violated the Cabaret policy prohibiting private use of critical construction materials manufactured by the NASSCO. For this violation, he recommended that Vitug be penalized to the extent of cancelling all his outstanding and future allotments of steel bars from the NASSCO and bar him from future contracts with the government.

He also recommended that the PHHC officials responsible for the requisitioning of the steel bars be charged with gross negligence. The President held these recommendations of Ligot under advisement.

Upon recommendation of Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia, the Cabinet authorized the re-entry into the Philippines of Mrs. Idonah Perkins for as long as is necessary for her to appear before the courts in Manila, in connection with a pending civil case. The Cabinet also authorized the sale of the White Plains Chancery in New York City, N. Y.

The Cabinet, moreover, approved the designation of former Ambassador Joaquin M. Elizalde as chief delegate and Philippine Minister to Rome Manuel Alzate as alternate, to the 25th session of the FAO council, opening on September 3, 1956, and to the special conference of FAO, starting on September 10, 1956, in Rome, Italy.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Month in Review: August 26, 1956

For the second day in a row, the President stayed out in Manila Bay on his yacht Sta. Maria. He was expected to return to Malacañang this evening... After lunch, the President relaxed by engaging in one of his favorite sports, fishing. He landed a big yellow fin tuna. The President must have enjoyed casting his line because according to Lt. Regis, his aide, the tuna "gave the President quite a fight." Later in the afternoon the President worked on state papers.

President's Month in Review: August 31, 1956

The President observed his 49th birthday today the Magsaysay way, without fanfare and the festivities which had usually attended the dates of birthdays of previous chief executives. He started his birthday by hearing mass and receiving holy communion aboard the yacht Sta. Maria... While aboard the yacht, the President tuned in on the radio which broadcast the recorded "special birthday greetings" of Bing Crosby.

President's Month in Review: August 16-31, 1956

President's Month in Review: September 1-15, 1956

OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

September 1.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay extended the quiet observance of his 49th birthday yesterday to this day by staying aboard the presidential yacht with his family.

Although the President stayed aboard his yacht cruising on Manila Bay the whole day this day, he kept in touch with key officials of the Palace.

A Malacañang spokesman said that the birthday greetings sent to the Palace by well-wishers yesterday had been relayed to the Chief Executive.

Archbishop Jose Ma. Cuenco of Jaro, Iloilo, wired "Many happy returns of the day for God and country," while the Ateneo fathers offered the Holy Sacrifice of the mass "for the intentions of the President."

The President must have felt assured of the support of the Catholics, as a number of the messages he had received came from Catholic bishops and prelates.

THE Chief Executive divided his time this day between fishing and going over birthday greetings and state papers.

Among the papers endorsed to the President this day was the report of Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, his performance officer, who recommended the dismissal of 25 customs employees.

Crisol's report involved the 120 administrative cases of minor officials of the Bureau of Customs, where a P150-a-month employee was reported to have amassed assets amounting to P130,000 by running a hotel in Malate, Manila.

The President went over Crisol's report and it was predicted that the Bureau of Customs would soon be overhauled.

The charges against the employees ranged from grave misconduct, neglect of duty, conduct prejudicial to the interest of the service, gross violation of office regulations and abandonment of post, immorality and insubordination, and electioneering.

September 2.—BANKING on the report of the Weather Bureau that it would be only "cloudy to overcast skies with some rains, mostly during the second half of the period," the President debarked early this morning from his yacht and motored about 7:30 o'clock to the Nichols Air Base in preparation for his flying trip to San Isidro, Nueva Ecija, to fill a speaking engagement.

However, upon his arrival at Nichols, the President was prevailed upon by Air Force authorities not to make the trip as the inclement weather would make it hazardous. It would take some 70 minutes to negotiate the distance from Nichols to San Isidro by helicopter.

Malacañang newsmen who motored to San Isidro early this morning, found some 50,000 people gathered at the site of the ceremonies in spite of the overcast skies. The newsmen reported that they had heard grumblings of disappointment with the failure of the President to show up.

The President spent, the whole day in the Palace after returning from Nichols, unperturbed by reports that Sen. Jose P. Laurel had sounded out Nacionalista leader on his chances of running for President against him in the 1957 elections.

IN the afternoon, the President motored out of Malacañang. He left the Palace about 4 p.m. and returned about 7 o'clock in the evening.

MALACAÑANG released today the results of the investigation of the administrative cases against 26 officials and employees of the People's Home-site and Housing Corporation as submitted to the President by Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, presidential overall performance officer.

The investigators of the charges had recommended nine employees dismissed, nine permanently separated from the service and to be prosecuted criminally, five considered resigned, one fined 10 days, one reprimanded, and four exonerated.

The investigating team consisted of Tomas E. Testa, Mrs. Salud V. Parreno, and Jesus V. Merritt. The recommendations of the investigators had been concurred in by resolutions of the PHHC board of directors.

September 3.—AFTER staying away from Malacañang for three days, the President resumed this morning his daily chore of receiving callers.

Among the first delegations which called on the President this morning was a group of 28 of the 29 municipal mayors of Nueva Ecija. The President failed to meet the Nueva Ecija mayors yesterday when bad weather prevented him from flying to San Isidro, Nueva Ecija, to address the 60th anniversary of the "Cry of Nueva Ecija".

The President this morning received the delegation of municipal mayors of Nueva Ecija who presented him with resolutions passed at a recent meeting of their mayors' league urging him to run for reelection in next years' presidential polls.

Headed by Mayor Nicetas Viesca of San Antonio, president of the Nueva Ecija mayors' league, the delegation informed the President that a Magsaysay-for-Reelection Movement (MRM) had already been organized in the province under the leadership of Gov. Amado Q. Aleta. Also with the group were Rep. Celestino C. Juan, who accompanied the delegation to Malacañang.

Earlier this morning, the President received members of the Stanford University Research Institute survey team which had just concluded a six-month nationwide survey of transportation facilities in this country, a project under the joint NEC-ICA program. Robert O. Shreve, head of the team, informed the Chief Executive that their report which was being finalized would be submitted to him in a few days.

Accompanied by Andres O. Hizon, acting NEC executive director, other members of the survey group were H. E. Robison, Rear Admiral John W. Landrigan (USN retired), Dr. Edward L. Ullman, Robert K. Arnold and John A. McCunniff, experts in water transportation, shipping company management, vessel operations, port operations, land transportation economics, truck and bus operations, and air transportation.

A delegation of CAA department heads and members of their families called to present a petition against the return of Capt. Urbano Caldoza as administrator of the Civil Aeronautics Administration, who had been suspended pending investigation of administrative charges filed against him. The group was accompanied by Dr. Alberto de Joya.

A delegation of professionals and businessmen from Narvacan, Ilocos Sur, called to register their protest against the projected use of part of their town plaza for the expansion of a public market. This group was headed by Samuel Gines and accompanied by former Public Works Secretary Prospero Sanidad.

Other delegations were those from the second district of the Citizen's Health Council of Manila headed by Dr. Olimpio Villacorta, who petitioned for the improvement and expansion of the facilities of the San Lazaro hospital; the Philippine Well Drillers' Association headed by Olimpio Mendoza which called the President's attention to certain anomalies allegedly committed in awards for the construction of artesian wells by private contractors; and the Cotabato delegation headed by Dr. Jorge Royeca which sought the installation of P90,000-irrigation project in one of the settlement projects in the province.

The President received callers at his study from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Then he proceeded to the Palace dining room, where he had a luncheon conference with officials of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation.

Among his individual callers in the morning were Governor Miguel Cuaderno of the Central Bank, who called prior to his departure for Washington, D.C., to attend the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Cuaderno said he would leave on September 10 and expects to be away for about one month.

Sixto Mangala, a "bambolin" maker from Sto. Tomas, Pangasinan, called to present the President with samples of his product, a violin made of bamboo, and other locally-produced materials.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Thompson of the International Labor Organization called to say goodbye before returning to the United States after serving a one-year tour of duty with the United Nations agency here. They were accompanied by former Press Secretary Juan C. Orendain.

Other individual callers included Sen. Francisco Rodrigo and Jay Click, Manila representative of the Cal-Elvis Company of California, who presented the President with water "conditioner", a new gadget designed to purify water without the aid of chemicals. Click was accompanied by Guillermo Abdon, NAWASA chief chemist.

Officials of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation (PHHC) denied this noon published reports alleging an anomaly involving P6 million in connection with the construction of Project 6 in Quezon City.

The reports had alleged that payments amounting to P6 million had been made to the contractors for Project 6 for "uncompleted" work.

PHHC officials led by Acting Board Chairman Isidro Retizos, Acting General Manager Bernardino Lozada, and Acting Assistant General Manager Jesus V. Merritt, told President Magsaysay at a Malacañang luncheon meeting that the reports were "completely inaccurate" considering that less than P3 million had been spent to date on Project 6. They said the P6 million figure mentioned in the reports obviously was arrived at from the fact that the cost of the entire project would amount to that much, P6 million.

Lozada further said the less than P3 million already spent on the project included the cost of laying out roads. He added the PHHC had not yet formally accepted the houses from the contractors precisely because it was now, undertaking a recheck of the construction work done to ferret out and correct defects and contract deficiencies. For this reason, he said the PHHC has retained and withheld 10 per cent of sums due the contractors to pay for such necessary repairs.

Retizos recalled that the PHHC management already has suspended three officials connected with Project 6 construction for apparent laxity and negligence in inspecting the work done on the houses.

Merritt, chairman of a three-man committee looking into the responsibility of these three officials and reviewing the work done on Project 6, submitted a preliminary report confirming construction defects, crude installation of facilities, and contract deficiencies but stressing that these were not irreparable.

Merritt cited that a PHHC request for complaints from the tenants themselves brought in replies showing 302 dwellings units with some defect or other. He said repairs have already been undertaken in 83 of these houses to the complete satisfaction of the tenants.

President Magsaysay had summoned the PHHC officials to Malacañang to inquire about the reports. Others who attended the luncheon conference were Secretary of Justice Pedro Tuason, Acting Economic Coordination Administrator Juan Concon, Press Secretary J. V. Cruz, Defense Undersecretary Jose Crisol, and PHHC Board Member Sergio Ortiz.

The PHHC officials also advised the President that they had given due course to the administrative phase of the recommendations, of committees which had investigated irregularities in the corporation.

These recommendations included the dismissal and criminal prosecution of nine PHHC officials and employees and the dismissal of nine others.

Earlier, the PHHC board had decided to separate Eduardo Gosiengfiao, assistant to the general manager, from the service.

PHHC officials connected with Project 6 who have been suspended for negligence in inspecting the construction work there are Gregorio T. Ramos, chief electrician; Demetrio Casintahan, electrical inspector; and Enrique de la Cruz, chief plumber.

September 4.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning received a delegation from Leyte headed by Gov. Bernardo Torres who presented him with resolutions recently passed by municipal councils of 62 out of 63 municipalities in the province, reiterating their pledges of loyalty and support and expressing the general clamour in the province of his re-election.

Attractively bound in book form, the resolutions were presented to the President as a birthday gift from the people of Leyte. Also with the delegation was Marcelino Veloso, provincial board member.

Presidential callers this morning were made up mostly of senators and congressmen who requested financial aid for their respective provinces. Most of the requests were for the construction and repair of municipal building, roads, bridges, health centers, and school buildings, especially in provinces which had been hard hit by recent destructive typhoons.

Those who were at Malacañang this morning included Sens. Alejo Mabanag, Quintin Paredes, Mariano J. Cuenco, Roseller T. Lim, and Domocao Alonto; and Reps. Jose Aldeguer and Pedro Trono of Iloilo, Manuel Zosa of Cebu, Wenceslao Lagumbay and Jacobo Gonzales of Laguna, Angel Castaño and Augusto Francisco of Manila, Cesar Fortich of Bukidnon, Gaudencio Abordo of Palawan, Ombra Amilbangsa of Sulu, and Gregorio Abogado of Samar.

Gov. Alejandro Almendras of Davao, who came with Rep. Ismael Veloso, discussed arrangements for the projected visit of the President to his province. Gov. Dominador Chipeco of Laguna accompanied a delegation from the Parent-Teachers Association in Calamba which requested the establishment of a puericulture center.

Edwin B. Schwinger, an American business executive, also called and informed the President of his plan to establish a lead smelting plant and oxide factory in the Philippines. Schwinger said that the projected corporation would be set up with 50 per cent American capital, and 50 per cent Filipino capital. He said that no dollar allocation would be needed as the necessary machinery would be furnished by the W. F. Fuller and Company of California at its investment in the business.

About 11 a.m., the President motored out of Malacañang to attend an outside engagement. He asked Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently foreign affairs secretary, to receive the rest of his callers on his behalf.

Rep. Felipe Garduque of Cagayan sought immediate aid for typhoon sufferers in his province. He informed the Vice-President that about 80 per cent of the classes had been suspended in his congressional district owing to the destruction of school buildings by two severe typhoons.

Rep. Ignacio Cruz of Misamis Oriental accompanied two town mayors, namely, Enerito Acain of Initao and Felipe Acenas of Kinoguitan, who requested the construction of barrio roads.

The Vice-President finished receiving callers at 12:30 p.m.

IN the evening, the President received a 200-man delegation from Narvacan, Ilocos Sur, headed by political lieutenants of the late President Quirino. They pledged their support to President Magsaysay's re-election in the 1957 elections. They said they would support the President "no matter who would oppose him." The late President's brother, Antonio Quirino, is seeking the Liberal Party presidential nomination.

The delegation went to Malacañang in the evening after finding out that the Chief Executive was out of the Palace this morning.

Heading the evening callers were Rep. Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur, former Budget Commissioner Pio Joven, Candon Mayor Alejandro Samonte, and Vice-Mayor Clemente Abaya.

September 5.—EARLY this morning, the President attended the wedding of Irene N. Montano, daughter of former Senator and Mrs. Justiniano S. Montano, to Walfrido de los Angeles at the Lourdes church.

The President was fetched by the former Cavite solon from the Palace. The Chief Executive was accompanied by Maj. Jose Estrella, presidential aide.

UPON his return to the Palace, the President received Dr. Maurice Galante, a visiting surgeon from the University of California, U. S. A.

After a brief talk with the American surgeon, the President convoked the regular weekly meeting of the Cabinet.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay at the Cabinet meeting this noon appointed the other members of the *ad interim* Philippine Reparations Mission in Tokyo in preparation for its task of procuring the reparations goods and services from Japan.

The President also added another technical man to the Manila office to hasten the work of implementing the reparations agreement at the Manila end.

The President and the Cabinet at the meeting turned their attention to the development and encouragement of home industries by approving the release of P1 million from the NAMARCO revolving fund. This amount will be distributed among the different vocational schools in the country manufacturing handicrafts which are very much needed in the United States.

At the Cabinet meeting, the President heard Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently foreign affairs secretary, report that he had served notice to the Chinese Embassy in Manila to hasten the submission of the formula to solve the problem of repatriating the 2,400 overstayed Chinese visitors in the Philippines.

Also approved was a request of Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., for the salary adjustment of other officials in his department under Republic Act No. 842.

In the presence of the Cabinet and Minister Caesar Z. Lanuza, who was recently appointed chief of the Philippine Reparations Mission to Japan, the President appointed five other officials to the mission in Tokyo, as follows: Mario P. Marcos, executive assistant to the Central Bank deputy governor, as counsellor (senior official); Gregorio G. Abad, a technical assistant in the Senate, as special assistant; David C. Manipula, commission policies expert of the NEC, as economist; Leonardo F. Crisologo, marketing, warehousing, and distribution specialist of the NEC, as procurement, inspection, and financial officer; and Maj. Herman W. Sevilla of the ACCFA legal department, as legal counsel and administrative officer.

These officials, including Col. Francisco H. Licuanan and Lieut. Serafin de Guia, who had been previously appointed as technical assistant and assistant, respectively, have been drawn from various government offices.

The President also appointed Antonio P. Chanco, retired Army colonel, to the *ad interim* reparations office in Manila to assist NEC Executive Director Andres Hizon, in handling the Manila end of the reparations. Previously

designated to the Manila office was Jose Jovellanos, mechanical-electrical engineer of the National Power Corporation. At present, Hizon, Lanuza, and Chanco are busy whipping into final form the list of reparations requirements of the Philippine Government which will be taken along by Lanuza when he enplanes for Tokyo to assume his post before September 15.

The President directed that this work be finished at the earliest possible time, pointing out that the total amounts should not exceed the \$14 million allowed during the first year of the reparations agreement implementation, and that only the most urgent materials needed for rural development be included in the listing.

As approved in the last meeting of the Council of State, the first-year implementation of the reparations agreement with Japan will be done on a government-to-government basis. The reparations mission in Tokyo will negotiate item by item the reparations listed which will be agreed upon by the two Governments. The mission will also carry out the task of procuring the desired goods and services. These will include selection of the goods and supervision and control over the inspection and shipment of the goods to the Philippines.

On recommendation of Education Secretary Hernandez, the President and the Cabinet approved the release of a P1 million revolving fund from the NAMARCO to be withdrawn from the Philippine National Bank for distribution among schools engaged in the manufacture of handicrafts.

Hernandez said that many of these schools were manufacturing *saguran* mats, slippers, hats, handbags, and other similar articles which were in big demand in the United States. He said that as the funds were released to the different school units, a contract would be signed with importing concerns in the United States, thus insuring the sale of these products. He added that the release of this sum would give a tremendous boost to the local handicraft industry, and provide additional income to the people.

NAMARCO will be reimbursed from the proceeds of the sale of handicraft items.

Vice-President Garcia said that he had served notice to the Chinese Embassy in Manila to hasten the submission of the formula in solving the repatriation of some 2,400 overstayed Chinese in the Philippines. He explained that these Chinese have been classified into four categories and for each category a solution for repatriation has been offered. The details, however, of the repatriation formula were not divulged.

The Vice-President said that if this proposed formula of the Chinese Embassy would not be acceptable to the Department of Foreign Affairs, he would continue exploring the possibility of sending back these overstayed Chinese to their port of origin, which invariably is Hongkong, B.C.C.

Vice-President Garcia said that these overstayed Chinese were carry-overs from the last administration. He pointed out that under a Cabinet policy of the present administration promulgated March 10, 1954, no over-staying Chinese visitors have been allowed to remain, as all of them had been returned after the expiration of their visas.

The Cabinet also approved salary adjustments in the vocational schools under the provisions of Republic Act No. 842. This was upon certification by Secretary of Education Hernandez that funds were available for such adjustments in vocational schools. Other salary adjustments under this act would await availability of funds. The Cabinet adopted as an *interim* policy the suggestion of Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona to the effect that Republic Act No. 842 should be interpreted so that salary adjustments will be based "on the length of service in the position occupied at the time of the adjustment."

On recommendation of the Vice-President, the Cabinet approved the sending of Philippine delegates to participate in the conference on the Statute on International Atomic Energy Agency at the United Nations headquarters in New York on September 20, 1956. Composing the delegation are Ambassador Felixberto M. Serrano, permanent representative of the Philippines to the United Nations, as chairman, and Navy Cdr. Marcelino E. Calinawan, Jr., vice-chairman, of the inter-departmental committee on atomic energy, who is at the same time presidential appointments secretary, as member.

The technical advisers and experts needed by the Philippine delegation may be drawn from among available Filipino scholars in nuclear science and technology now in the United States. Cdr. Calinawan is attending this conference as a grantee of the Eisenhower exchange fellowship. He is leaving with Mrs. Calinawan, who is also covered by the fellowship.

The President presided over the Cabinet meeting from a little before 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. The meeting was held in the family dining room.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay and Vice-President Garcia this evening were given by senators, congressmen, governors, and city mayors pledges of support for their re-election in 1957 and in their dedication to the government's policy of uplifting-the living conditions of the people.

The manifestations of loyalty were publicly made during cocktails given at Malacañang this evening.

President Magsaysay, in gratefully acknowledging these pledges, said that he should like to accept "your expression of support not only as a political pledge but, more important, as a pledge to cooperate, with me and our administration in our efforts to better the lot of our people."

The President said that the task of serving the people called for the "cooperation of every responsible citizen . . . for hard work, good judgment, and the highest order of patriotism from every one of us."

He added, "I know that you share with me this concept of the priority of the national interest. I, therefore, regard your pledge as a rededication of our mutual pledge to serve our people."

He pointed out that the next election was still a year off and that "you as well as our people (should) not let politics interfere with, nor distract us from, the urgent work of advancing the welfare of our people." The President's brief remarks were greeted with several applause.

Actually, four resolutions pledging support were read to the President. Gov. Alejo Santos of Bulacan read a scroll signed by all of the 51 governors except two and 13 city mayors.

A manifesto signed by senators headed by Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., and by more than 30 congressmen and presidents of sugar planters was read to the Chief Executive by Rep. Lorenzo Teves of Negros Oriental.

A resolution signed by all the governors and city mayors of the First Military Area, including the "solid North", was read by Governor Conrado Estrella of Pangasinan. The resolution reiterated the endorsement of President Magsaysay and Vice-President Garcia's re-election in 1957.

Not to be outdone, Gov. Leon Guinto of Quezon spoke extemporaneously and said that a similar resolution of the Southern Tagalog provinces would be presented to the President tomorrow.

Gov. Dominador Chipeco of Laguna said that while the southern Tagalog governors had not approved a regional resolution of their own and had signed only the overall resolution, they would constitute themselves as "watchers" in 1957 to make sure that those who had signed the pledge work to the utmost for the re-election of President Magsaysay and Vice-President Garcia.

After reading the resolutions, Senate President Rodriguez thanked all of those who pledged their support to the President and the Vice-President. He told the signers of the resolutions that once they had affixed their signature, their "heart and soul" should go with it and they should be true to their pledged word. Jokingly, he said that he would act, not only as an inspector and watcher, but as a supervisor in seeing to it that those pledges were fulfilled.

In his brief additional remarks when the cocktail party was about to end, President Magsaysay told all the officials assembled that in the next session of Congress he would recommend the granting of limited local autonomy to provincial and local officials for the more expeditious manner of serving the people. He said that unnecessary paper work in the transaction of government business resulted in the delay of carrying on the business of government. He said that he wanted to have the local governments run on a business-like proposition.

For this purpose, he said, he planned to call a convention of all governors and city mayors in January next year, in order to discuss the details of this proposition.

Vice-President Garcia gave an open invitation to all the signers of the resolutions to a luncheon at the New Selecta tomorrow.

September 6.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay again requested Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia to receive scheduled callers at Malacañang this morning. He left the Palace at 6:25 a.m. to visit 2nd MA headquarters and returned about 12 noon to fulfill a luncheon engagement with Customs collectors headed by Customs Commissioner Manuel P. Manahan.

Callers this morning consisted mostly of provincial delegations which sought aid for their respective localities. The Vice-President received them from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A 500-man delegation from Guagua, Pampanga, headed by Mayor Isidro P. Ocampo requested prefabricated school buildings, liberty wells, and the establishment of a maternity and children's hospital in the town.

Five town mayors from Quezon sought the construction of barrio roads and puericulture centers in their municipalities. They were Francisco Enriquez of Atimonan, Gregorio Yumul of Lopez, Ricardo Macasaet of Infanta, Constantino Peña of Casiguran, and Leon Ruidera of General Nakar. They were accompanied by Rep. Leon Guinto, Jr.

A large delegation from three towns in Isabela submitted a petition for funds to finance various public improvements in their localities. Accompanied by Rep. Samuel F. Reyes, the delegation was headed jointly by Mayors Jose Buraga of Cabagan, Leocadio Ignacio of Mallig, and Domingo Mariano of Cordon.

A group of farmers from Masbate sought government assistance in the recovery of parcels of pasture lands which they had held for many years and which had been allegedly "grabbed" by a certain landowner. The farmers were accompanied by Rep. Mateo Pecson.

Another group of farmers sought the Vice-President's intervention in connection with an ejectment proceeding instituted against them by their landlords. The group was accompanied by Mayor Dioscoro D. Felix of San Manuel, Tarlac.

Other delegations included those from Madela, Nueva Vizcaya, headed by Rep. Leonardo Perez and Mayor Dionisio Sarandi; from Capiz, headed by Rep. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing; from Subic, Zambales, accompanied by Rep. Enrique Corpus; and some Tondo residents squatting on lots of the City of Manila who had been allegedly ordered ejected by the city mayor.

Earlier in the morning, the Vice-President received Dr. Thomas Dooley, author of the book, *Deliver Us from Evils*, featured in one of the recent issues of the Readers Digest and for which he had won the Christopher Award. En-route to Laos to conduct a medical survey, Dr. Dooley called at Malacañang to pay his respects.

Among the last callers was a delegation from Camarines Sur accompanied by Rep. Felix Fuentebella.

THE President was advised today by Customs Commissioner Manuel P. Manahan that customs collections for the fiscal year ended last June 30 were P54 million bigger than for the fiscal year 1954-55. The figures were P257 million compared to P202 million.

The President received this report at a Malacañang luncheon-conference with Manahan and all Customs collectors in the country now in Manila for a week-long conference to discuss common problems and exchange views and experiences.

The President told the gathering he would fight for higher salaries for Customs personnel in next year's budget. He pledged this after learning that collectors earned only P400 monthly. He said they deserved more considering that their work bring revenue into government coffers and considering the delicate nature of their jobs.

Manahan said the higher collections in the last fiscal year were due to more effective tax collection coupled with higher tariff rates on imports coming from Europe, imposition of customs duties and taxes on U. S. goods, and the start of the 17 per cent special import tax. He added the increase was realized despite reduced dollar allocations for imports, especially of non and semi-essentials.

Manahan said the outlook for the fiscal year which began last July 1 was even better and warranted the prediction that the Bureau of Customs would meet its predetermined goals. In fact the collections for the first two months of the current fiscal year exceeded estimates. Collections in July were P24,191,000 against estimates of P24,170,000, and in August P25,541,000 was brought in against estimates of P24,442,000.

Collections in all ports for the fiscal year just ended exceeded the previous fiscal year's figures. Biggest increases were registered in Jolo, where collections jumped up by 226.8 per cent; in Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte, 133 per cent; and in Legaspi-Tabaco, Albay, 108.70 per cent.

The President told the collectors it was necessary for them to maintain their honesty so that they could freely go after crooks in their various organizations. He said officials with anomalies to hide become afraid of disciplining and prosecuting their subordinates lest their own sins be exposed. Thus they had to remain honest to be able to maintain clean organization, he told the collectors.

The President inquired after the house-cleaning campaign conducted by Commissioner Manahan in his bureau and reiterated his backing of the drive.

Manahan said other improvements introduced in the Bureau of Customs by the present management were that it has simplified the coursing of import entries by setting up an assembly line that minimizes red tape and interference from the public; coordinated activities of entities involved in the handling of tourists, and relaxed restrictions regarding passengers; eliminated the backlog of post office parcels from abroad; created the Customs information service to insure uniformity in appraisal and classification and to prevent tax frauds; boosted personnel morale by promotion of low-salaried employees, but applied a mailed fist policy against incorrigibles; prepared manuals of instructions for personnel of the appraisers division and for those of the piers and inspectors division; conducted in-service training for the appraisers division and will commence in-service training for the piers and inspectors division next month; effected the immediate payment plan in the Ports of Cebu, Iloilo, and Davao; and expedited the billing of accounts in an effort to determine the total amount collectible by the Bureau of Customs.

Present besides Manahan were Assistant Commissioner Eleuterio Capapas and Collectors Isidro Ang-angco, Manila; Paulino Valdes, Davao; Agapito Abriol, San Fernando, La Union; Andres S. Fernandez, Cagayan de Oro; Eulogio V. Lawenko, Legaspi-Tabaco, Alfredo T. Francisco, Jolo; J. M. Espino, Cebu; Benito Tamayo, Tacloban; Juan B. Celeste, Zamboanga; Democrito R. Septimo, Jose Panganiban; Fulgencio Jainga; and Pedro G. Villafuerte, Zamboanga.

IN the evening, the President swore into office the *ad interim* members of the Board of Travel and Tourist Industry and those of the Board of Supervisors of the Philippine Tourist and Travel Association.

The members of the BTTI are Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, chairman; and Public Works Undersecretary Rafael Contreras, Finance Undersecretary Jose Trinidad, Justice Undersecretary Jesus Barrera, Cesar Lorenzo, president of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, and Modesto Farolan, president of the Philippine Tourist and Travel Association, as members. Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Raul S. Manglapus, who is also a member, could not take his oath.

The members of the board of supervisors of the Philippine Tourist and Travel Association are Secretary Ledesma, chairman; RFC Chairman Eduardo Z. Romualdez; Customs Commissioner Manuel P. Manahan; Immigration Commissioner Emilio Galang; MRR General Manager Salvador T. Villa; Manila Vice-Mayor Jesus Marcos Rocas; Publisher Arsenio N. Luz of the *Evening News*, Pete Teodoro; Felipe Juico, representing the Philippine Society of Travel Agents; Ralph G. Hawkins, Luzon Stevedoring; Cesar Jayme, assistant manager of the Northwest Airlines; Daniel Gomez, vice-president of PAT; Jose Cobarrubias, manager of Hotel Filipinas; and Cornelio Balmaceda, representing the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines.

After the oath-taking, the President in brief remarks expressed the hope that with the organization of the two boards, more tourists would come to the Philippines and bring in dollars. He said that the Philippines has been allocating more dollars to Filipinos going abroad than the amount of dollars being brought in by tourists.

The President added, "This resulted in unfavorable balance of dollars which, must be changed. I hope that with the formal organization of these two boards, we shall be able to bring in more dollars to the Philippines."

Present at the swearing in was Rep. Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur, author of the bill creating the two boards. After the induction, the members of the two boards met and unanimously elected Modesto Farolan as commissioner on tourism.

September 7.—AT a breakfast conference today, President Magsaysay and Congress leaders agreed to permit recruitment of Filipinos for California farm labor under terms offered by the Fruit Growers Association of California. They decided to accept the present employment provisions on the understanding that Ambassador to the United States, Carlos P. Romulo would be instructed to continue working for more favorable terms for the Filipino laborers.

Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevosio informed the conference the fruit growers to date have requested only 100 laborers. They have been authorized by U. S. immigration authorities, however, to bring in up to 1,000. Adevosio said he did not know whether the growers would hire this full number now that the government has flashed the green light for recruitment.

Under the Malacañang decision recruitment will be done on a laborer-to-employer basis. The contract governing conditions of work will be between the laborer and the employer. The breakfast conference in effect shelved proposals to work for a government-to-government contract.

Among the highlights of the contract proposed by the California growers is that the laborers will bear the cost of transportation to and from the United States. Adevosio estimated that the "worst" kind of laborer—lazy and unimaginative—dogged by the "worst" wind of luck, could look forward to take home pay of \$700 after three years work in California. At the other extreme he said an ideal laborer favored with good luck could take home as much as \$7,000 after the same period.

The feeling at the Malacañang conference was that while the contract offered by the growers still left much to be desired, it offered an opportunity to partly relieve unemployment and therefore should be accepted. It was further believed that Filipinos desirous of accepting employment under conditions fully know and explained to them should not be discouraged, provided elementary standards of fair and decent work were fulfilled. It was pointed out furthermore that Romulo will continue working for improvement of the present conditions and at the same time the Philippine Government, through the Department of Labor and its appropriate diplomatic missions abroad, will keep an eye on the laborers to see that their rights are protected and to promote their welfare.

Adevoso said the laborers will be selected by representatives of the growers themselves. These will arrive here as soon as advised of the acceptance of their offer. They will look over lists of applicants being compiled by the Department of Labor.

Adevoso was instructed by the meeting to work out details of implementation of the recruitment program. The conference lasted from 8 to 9:15 a.m.

Present were President Magsaysay, Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., Senate Majority Floor Leader Cipriano Primicias, Sens. Roseller T. Lim and Jose P. Laurel, House Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., House Majority Floor Leader Arturo Tolentino, Reps. Angel Castaño, Serafin Salvador, and Cesar Fortich, Secretary Adevoso and Press Secretary J. V. Cruz.

THE President and the Cabinet at the special meeting ordered the rejection of all bids for the acquisition of fire-fighting equipment for the Civil Aeronautics Administration and, instead, directed the purchase of the equipment directly by the Philippine Procurement Mission in New York.

The matter was brought to the attention of the Cabinet in view of the necessity of taking immediate action on the acquisition of the fire-fighting equipment to provide additional safety measures at the airport.

Owing to some difficulties in making a final decision on the result, of the bidding because of technical matters, and in view of the urgency of the purchase, the President decided to have the fire-fighting equipment ordered direct through the PPM.

The Cabinet authorized Mrs. Fernanda S. Balboa of the Pan Pacific Southeast Asia Women's Association to proceed to Moscow to attend an international conference sponsored by the Russian Government on the status of women. Mrs. Balboa was also authorized to visit other places where she was invited to address women's groups on Philippine conditions.

The Cabinet also approved:

(1) Dr. Concepcion A. Aguila, president of the Centro Escolar University and a member of the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines, to represent the Philippines in the meeting of experts on exchange of persons scheduled in Tokyo, Japan, on September 24 to 29, 1956, under the auspices of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO. The government will not incur any expenses for Dr. Aguila's trip.

(2) Mrs. Emperatriz S. Tensuan, city supervisor of Pasay City schools, to study under an international scholarship in one of the universities in the United States at her own expense.

The Cabinet also approved the travel of the following participants for the fiscal year 1956 ICA-NEC Type A technical assistance training program:

Juan C. Capalad of the Bureau of Customs, to train in appraisement for six months; Alberto C. Ruiz, Domingo A. Rosel and Peregrino Q. Guaring, all of the PC, to train in rural police techniques for three months; and Isidro S. Macaspac of the NEC to train in economic development planning for one year.

The President also approved a recommendation of the screening committee to increase the salaries of deserving employees in several government offices.

The President presided over the Cabinet meeting which was held at the family dining room from a little before 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A great part of the deliberations of the Cabinet concerned the study of the NAMARCO contract.

Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, NAMARCO board chairman, and NAMARCO General Manager Manuel J. Gonzalez presented to the special Cabinet meeting today the papers on the contract between NAMARCO and the Basic Commodities, Inc.

Ledesma and Gonzalez called the Cabinet's attention to the observations of the NAMARCO auditor, Alfredo Liboro, regarding the contract.

Liboro had raised some questions about the contract when it was being discussed but, after receiving the NAMARCO's replies to those questions, made the following observations in a memorandum submitted last August 2:

"1. The 4 1/2 per cent Interest—Our comment on the 4% per cent interest due on the credit of \$12 million a year from Basic Commodities as an extra cost which could well be saved for the Government is based on the assumption that the dollar requirements for long term import plan are available to NAMARCO. Inasmuch as it has been explained that the \$12 million recently granted by the Central Bank was specifically approved in connection with the herein long-term financing import plan and that the proceeds from the sale of commodities to be imported under the plan will be invested R and D Bonds which will earn an interest of 4 per cent, then the extra cost of P1,080,000.00 in the form of interest will be offset by the income in R and D Bonds to the extent of P960,000 or a difference of only P120,000. This difference, however, can very well be covered up by the advantage the Corporation will have in the form of profit out of the sales of the commodities imported under the plan. We are, therefore, satisfied with the explanation adverted to.

"2. Stand-by Letters of Credit—The extra cost of P300.000 in banking charges can not be avoided in view of the contract that the supplier will draw the draft against the letter of credit one year after shipment of commodities. Even if we want to, the drawing against the letter of credit after shipment of commodities can not be allowed as the dollars at the time are not available. The trust receipt will not, therefore, come into the picture in our proposed transaction with the Ohrbach, May and Co. But granting although not admitting, that the supplier can be allowed to draw against the letter of credit after each shipment instead of after twelve months in accordance with the contract, then the Corporation, by virtue of such payment, will be relieved, of paying the 4 1/2 per cent to be paid to the supplier, and it can not be said, therefore, that it would be more costly to avail of the trust receipt than the 1 1/2 per cent opening commissions for one year. The truth of the matter, however, is that the alternative of paying after each shipment so as to avoid the extra cost in banking charges for the letter of credit is not possible under the contract. The extra cost of P300,000 will, therefore, remain. Considering, however, the profits the Corporation will realize in this huge credit buying, which under our present importations are not less than 8 per cent, the extra cost of P300,000 in banking charges can very well be covered up. Our objection may, therefore, be waived.

"3. Prices—The procedure outlined by the Management in the purchase commodities from Ohrbach, May and Co., is a substantial compliance with the requirements of public bidding. This Office, therefore, waives its objections provided that provisions for submitting to public bidding goods to be ordered under the contract form part of the Contract with the supplier.

"4. Availability of Funds—The Central Bank having certified to the grant of P12 million to the NAMARCO for this purpose, the same is in compliance with Sec. 607 of the Revised Administrative Code, and of the Memorandum of the Governor of the Central Bank to Authorized Agents, dated May 5, 1952. It is requested, however, that this Office be furnished with a certificate true copy of the letter of the Central Bank dated July 13, 1956, to the Acting General Manager of the NAMARCO re this grant of \$12 million, for audit purposes."

The Cabinet concurred with the auditor's opinion to the effect that the contract was legal and proper and advantageous to the NAMARCO as well as to the consuming public.

Ledesma and Gonzales emphasized that the contract provided for public-bidding among all suppliers whenever the NAMARCO may require purchase from abroad. They said if the prices quoted by a supplier other than Basic Commodities, Inc., are the lowest, that supplier would receive the award provided he offers NAMARCO the same conditions and credit facilities offered in the contract.

Secretary Ledesma further explained that the NAMARCO had entered into this financing contract only because of the inability of the Central Bank to provide foreign exchange needed by the NAMARCO. He said it was negotiated on suggestion of the Central Bank itself, which had proposed that NAMARCO look for financing for its requirements. The contract had been submitted to the Central Bank for an opinion and the Bank had approved it.

Ledesma told the Cabinet that the NAMARCO need not take recourse to the financing and credit plan offered by this contract if and when it is provided with the dollars it needs for its buying requirements.

In view of this manifestation, and in order to save the P300,000 in banking charges called for by the operation of the contract, and enable NAMARCO to make purchases with minimum red tape and delay, the Cabinet resolved to request the Central Bank to make \$6 million available immediately to the NAMARCO to enable this corporation directly to purchase commodities needed for stabilization of prices on a cash carry basis instead of on credit as envisaged if the contract with Basic Commodities, Inc., is made operative.

Purchases to be made with the use of this \$6 million in foreign exchange will be in accordance with the normal rules and regulations followed by NAMARCO in its previous transactions.

September 8.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay kept to his room most of the day today studying state papers and receiving only a few callers. He received Col. Harry Brenn, local ICA chief, and George Aurell, political attache at the U. S. Embassy, with whom he discussed the surplus commodities being purchased by the Philippine Government from the United States.

The President this morning was informed by Col. Brenn, local ICA chief, that the papers for the purchase by the Philippine Government of surplus commodities from the United States Government will arrive in a few weeks for final agreement between the two Governments.

In a conference with Brenn, the President said that top priority will be given to prime commodities worth \$14 million to supply the country and knock down profiteers. The prime commodities will include canned milk, butter, cheese, meat (pork and beef), powdered milk, sardines, tuna fish, and salmon.

The surplus commodities will be paid by the Philippines in pesos to the United States Government in 20 or 30 years as may be decided upon the final agreement. The proceeds from the local sale of the prime surplus commodities will be channeled to the economic development of the Philippines.

The sale or distribution of the commodities will be handled by the NAMARCO or any other government agency as may be decided later. Brenn told the President that the papers may arrive in two or three weeks from the United States.

The President conferred with Brenn from 10 to 10:45 a.m.

Afterwards, the President conferred briefly with Governors Juan F. Triviño of Camarines Sur and Manuel D. Barreto of Zambales on matters concerning their provinces.

THEN the President wired former President Sergio Osmeña greeting him on the occasion of his 78th birthday tomorrow.

President Magsaysay told former President Sergio Osmeña he finds "encouragement and inspiration" in the latter's record of "historic services to our people."

The President expressed this sentiment in a wire sent to Mr. Osmeña in Cebu City greeting the latter on the occasion of his 78th birthday tomorrow, September 9.

Upon learning of the damage caused by typhoon *Emma* and the accompanying flood, the Chief Executive directed the Bureau of Public Works and Communications to make a survey of damage to public works projects, and the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources to determine crop losses. At the same time he told Social Welfare Administrator Amparo Villamor to send aid to the typhoon and flood victims, when necessary.

In the afternoon, after a brief rest, the President worked on state papers.

September 9.—THIS morning, the President took further steps to improve the living conditions of small farmers when he directed ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo to make representations with:

(1) The Central Bank to explore ways and means of reducing the rates of interests of loans extended to small farmers; and

(2) The NAMARCO with a view to acquiring yearly from that agency P1 million worth of consumers' goods which would be supplied to farmers at lower prices.

The Chief Executive gave these directives in the presence of officials of the provincial federation of FACOMAs who were accompanied by Mondoñedo to Malacañang to present the president with a resolution of gratitude for "the assistance which the government has extended to farmers all over the country."

The presentation of the resolutions to the Chief Executive climaxed the annual convention of the FACOMA officials who represented 227,000 farmers all over the country.

The President was informed by former Rep. Patricio Confesor of Iloilo, president of the Panay Federation of FACOMAs, who acted as spokesman of the group, that farmers had freed themselves from the clutches of usurers and unscrupulous middlemen because the government's program of extending loans to small farmers "has enabled the farmers to increase their yield and market their products at better prices."

Confesor added that the program had resulted in increased income and better living conditions for the farmers and their families numbering about a million and a half.

In the course of his conversation with the federation officials, the President was informed by Mondoñedo that the ACCFA had ventured in assisting other industries.

Mondoñedo said that the ACCFA would put up its branches in fishing centers of the country to assist the fishing industry.

He revealed that the ACCFA had established in Coron, Palawan, a *bagoong* plant producing 150,000 gallons of this commodity, monthly. He added that this output would soon be raised to 200,000 gallons a month.

The President was also informed by Mondoñedo that the ACCFA, in line with the economic development program of the administration, would assist in the copra industry. This program, Mondoñedo said, would materialize within a month.

After meeting with the FACOMA delegation, the President received at the music room the chief military advisers and their assistants of the third conference of the SEATO who paid him a courtesy call after the adjournment of their meet at Baguio, yesterday. The delegation was accompanied by Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff who had been the conference chairman of the six-day meet.

The President exchanged views with the SEATO conferees and recalled the unorthodox methods he had employed in combatting communism during his term as defense secretary. The call lasted from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today wired his greeting to Sen. Quintin Paredes in Bangued, Abra, on the occasion of the latter's birthday this day.

September 10.—I WAS feeling hopeless when you extended your helping hand to me, sir.”

This was 1st Lieut. Feliciano Miravite told the President today when he and his wife and two-year old daughter, Fe, called at Malacañang.

More than a year ago, March, 1955, to be exact. Lieut. Miravite's case reached the metropolitan newspapers. The President had been attacked by some congressional quarters for using his contingent fund to send Lieut. Miravite to the United States for further medical treatment.

Lieut. Miravite was a “nobody.” according to his wife, in 1953 through 1955. He was just one of the soldiers who volunteered “to fight a war in a foreign country because they did not wish it to be fought in our country and thus save our people from more sufferings and heartaches.”

But, unfortunately, Lieut. Miravite was hit by an enemy shrapnel in Korea in 1953 and he was paralyzed from the waist down. And it was in this condition that President Magsaysay chanced upon the young Army lieutenant in 1955 at the V. Luna General Hospital. Upon seeing the hapless Lieut. Miravite, the President decided to send him to the United States for treatment that he might regain the use of his two legs. For this purpose, the President used his contingent fund. He was attacked by some congressmen because of this.

Recently, Lieut. Miravite came home from hospitalization in the United States still paralyzed and using crutches, but feeling a million times better.”

One of the first persons Lieut. Miravite saw was his benefactor who braved a political storm in order to have the young hero cured. “I want to convey my thanks to you for all the help you extended to me, sir.” the invalid Korean veteran said.

When the President asked him how he was getting along and whether he was going to get well or not, Lieut. Miravite said that it was a matter of time and a lot of determination. The young lieutenant's spinal curd had been shattered by shrapnel, rendering him maimed from the waist down.

His eyes red and tears almost coming down his cheeks. Lieut. Miravite recounted to the President the ordeal and treatments he had undergone in the United States. “I am not losing hope, sir. I know you fought for my case,” the young lieutenant told the President.

Expressing pity and concerned over the sad case of the Korean veteran, the President said that he would not mind being criticized for doing things “such as I did in helping you.”

The young lieutenant, during his conversation with the President. was alternately choked with emotion and overcome with happiness. All throughout, his two-year old daughter, Fe, looked at the President and then at her father with wide open eyes. She was seemingly unconcerned over the whole matter. But when parting time with the President came, the young girl followed after her father and mother and said “*salamat po*” to the President.

The President listened intently as Lieut. Miravite related his story. Mrs. Marciana Santiago-Miravite, who had written a letter to the newspapers in defense of the President's action on her husband's case, was all the time holding on to her little daughter.

TWO of the Chief Executive's many callers were centenarian sisters from Iloilo who came all the way to thank the President “for alleviating the condition of the poor people in the municipality of Sara,” their hometown.

The sisters were Carmen and Soledad Sunico whose heads were already tottering and shaking because of their age; both of them are more than 115 years old. They talked to the President in their native Ilongo. Their first statement was: "We are already old and we have been wanting to see you, Mr. President, for a long time to thank you for what you have done to alleviate the living conditions of the poor people in our town."

The two sisters, both childless and poor, were accompanied to Malacañang by Mrs. Gregoria T. Daman.

A locally made plow was shown to the President by Vicente Zamora, head of a manufacturing company bearing his name. Impressed by the plow, the President sent an inquiry to the NARRA if the plow could be used by government settlers. The plow, made by the Vicente Zamora Manufacturing Company, costs P30.00. With Vicente Zamora were Vicente Zamora, Jr., and Mariano Ronas.

Professor R. S. Pitman headed members of the Summer Linguistic Institute who reported to the President on the progress of their study of Malayan dialects and their relation with each other. They also conveyed to the President the greetings of President Ngo Dinh Diem of Vietnam, where they just came from.

Officers and directors of the Philippine Safety Council also called on the President and presented him with a certificate of membership in the council. The PSC officers also discussed with the President the proposed reorganization of the Public Service Commission. Among those in the PSC delegation were Manila Vice-Mayor Jesus Marcos Roces, Henry A. Brime, Celso L. Preclaro, Hyman Levine, Frank S. Tenny, Col. Crisanto V. Alba, Justice Jorge Bocobo, Capt. Eulogio Samio, Col. Jose Razon, Manuel M. Aycardo, Jr., and William A. Chittick.

A big delegation of public school teachers of Rizal presented the President with a plaque in appreciation "for the benefits you extended to teachers all over the country" and "your concern for the welfare of the common people." The plaque was presented to the President by Teodoro Santos, president of the Rizal Public School Teachers Association. The plaque also cited the President's dynamic leadership and his upliftment of the living conditions of the masses.

Thanking the Rizal teachers for the plaque, the President said that it was always his obsession to help the masses. He said that his administration was starting with the things that count much to the common people; like, irrigation systems, artesian wells, and school houses.

Officers of the Philippine Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., also called on the President and thanked him for the presidential awards to be granted to outstanding business and professional women. They invited the Chief Executive to present the awards on October 5. Among those in the delegation were Mrs. Florenda Isaac-Barcenas, president; Miss Belen Morales, vice-president; Mrs. Visitation A. Hog, vice-president; Dr. R. Trinidad-Hembrador, vice-president; Miss Carmen Tupas, secretary; and Miss Lucia Barrameda, treasurer.

Ex-Rep. Domingo Siazon accompanied about 30 farmers from Cagayan who requested the President to help them in the segregation of a part of public land actually occupied by them. The President referred their case to the Bureau of Lands for action.

Another delegation from Cagayan was a group of PTA members of barrio San Vicente, Sanchez-Mira. They requested aid for the repair of their barrio school house which was destroyed by typhoon *Charlotte*.

Other callers of the President included Sen. Francisco Rodrigo, Govs. Delfin Montano of Cavite and Juan Frivaldo of Sorsogon, acting Director Ernesto Rodriguez of the Bureau of Public Libraries, C. H. McLeon, president of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company, and Alfonso Ponce Enrile, S. Barselona, and Alfonso Austria of Mangatarem, Pangasinan.

September 11.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay followed another heavy schedule of callers this morning. He received visitors at his study continuously from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

William Yates, 32-year old member of the British House of Commons, called to pay his respects following his arrival in Manila last night enroute to Saigon. He was accompanied to Malacañang by Minister George Lyle Glutton. The call lasted from 10:20 to 10:35 a.m.

Two Iranian brothers, Issa and Abdulla Omidvar, currently on a global tour on motorcycles, paid a courtesy call. During their call, the two brothers presented the President with an informative brochure on their country. They also got the President's autograph on a souvenir album containing signatures of heads of the states they have so far visited.

Paul Wood, president of International Harvester (Philippines), called to say goodbye prior to his departure tomorrow evening on a business trip to the United States and Europe. Accompanied by W. R. Daly, IHC vice-president, Wood informed the President he expected to be away about a month.

Samuel Broer and Joseph V. Vaughan, president and vice-president, respectively, of Firestone Rubber Company, called to pay their respects and to thank the President for having been permitted to establish a tire plant in the Philippines. Broer is returning shortly to the home office in Akron, Ohio.

Callers this morning consisted mostly of provincial delegations which sought financial assistance for the construction and reconstruction of public works projects in their respective localities, particularly those ravaged by recent destructive typhoons. Most of the requests were for construction and repair of roads, bridges, school houses, municipal buildings, waterworks, and river-control projects.

Among the delegations were those from Ilocos Norte headed by Rep. Ferdinand Marcos, Gov. Antonio Raquiza, and Mayors Nemesio Judalena of Curimao, Teodorico Agres of Banna, Feliciano Asuncion of Batac, and Vicente Hernando of San Nicolas; from Mindoro Oriental headed by Gov. Francisco Infantado and Mayors Antonio Adriatico of Calapan, Dominador Madrid of Pinamalayan, and Francisco Famero of Roxas; from Sorsogon headed by Rep. Vicente L. Peralta and Gov. Juan Frivaldo; from Bohol headed by Rep. Bartolome Cabangbang and Gov. Juan C. Pajo; and from Pampanga headed by Rep. Emilio Cortes and Mayors Alfonso Lague of Apalit and Manuel Abad Santos of Angeles.

Other delegations were those from Iloilo headed by Sen. Jose C. Zulueta and Rep. Ramon C. Tabiana; from Leyte accompanied by Rep. Domingo Veloso; from Nueva Ecija headed by Rep. Jose Corpus; from Capiz led by Rep. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing; from Nueva Vizcaya led by Gov. Jose G. Espino; from Bukidnon accompanied by Rep. Cesar Fortich; and from Manila headed by Rep. Augusto Francisco.

Earlier this morning, the President conferred with Presiding Judge Guillermo Santos of the Court of Agrarian Relations regarding the resettlement of some 150 families due to be ejected from the Bago Iñigo estate in Davao City. During the conference, the President expressed his desire to have the ejected tenants settle on part of lands owned by the Davao Penal Colony.

Other individual callers this morning included Sen. Edmundo B. Cea; Reps. Carlos Tan of Leyte, Constancio Castañeda of Tarlac, and Alberto Q. Ubay of Zamboanga del Norte; Govs. Rafael Lazatin of Pampanga and Mariano B. Peñaflorida of Iloilo; and former Gov. Vicente Constantino of Quezon.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay signed Administrative Order No. 215, fining City Engineer Oscar D. Data of Calbayog City, one month salary, and reprimanding and admonishing him to observe more firmness of character in his official actuations, Malacañang announced this morning.

Administrative charges had been filed against Data for alleged irregularities committed in his present capacity as city engineer of Calbayog City and while he was acting city engineer of Cebu City.

It was alleged that the respondent, as city engineer of Calbayog, was grossly negligent in connection with the acquisition of pipes from two dealers, which pipes were allegedly unsuited for, and not used in, the proposed waterworks system of Calbayog City.

Regarding the acquisition of cast iron pipes from Florencio Reyes and Company, respondent explained that lack of sufficient funds and his untimely transfer to Cebu prevented realization of the proposed city waterworks system, which project was ultimately abandoned. It appeared that the requisition for the pipes had been made properly and that the purchase was made by the purchasing agent. The respondent was absolved from alleged negligence in the acquisition of the pipes in question.

However, with regard to the excavation, dismantling, hauling, and transportation of black iron pipes from Guiuan to the then municipality of Calbayog, the respondent signed some of the vouchers for services rendered after they had been paid. According to him, he affixed his signature against his will and upon the request and insistence of other city officials who had assured him that that was routinary.

“This shows weakness of character on his part, for which he deserves reprobation,” the order said.

Moreover, it turned out that the pipes were not suited for the proposed waterworks system. However, the damage was minimized owing to respondent’s order stopping further delivery, although he should have advised the mayor earlier of the unsuitability of the pipes for the proposed project.

Data was exonerated from charges of padding payrolls and incurring an overdraft in the road and bridge fund. However, on the charge of mass employment of laborers just before the general elections of 1953 when he was acting engineer of Cebu City, the order said: “It is apparent that the large-scale repair job was undertaken primarily for vote-getting purposes and that the respondent yielded to political pressure.” It was charged that on November 6, 7, and 9, 1953, around 4,205 laborers were employed in the repair of the city streets, roads, and trails. The respondent said that the mass employment was the idea of the city mayor and the municipal board which appropriated the sum of P55,000 and that he had merely implemented their decision.

In view of the foregoing, the administrative order said, “City Engineer Oscar D. Data is hereby fined in an amount equivalent to his salary for one month. He is also reprimanded and admonished to observe more firmness of character in his official actuations in the future, otherwise repetition of similar acts will be dealt with more drastically.”

President Magsaysay issued Proclamation No. 344, declaring the period from September 17 to 23, 1956, as Labor-Management Cooperation Week.

The order said that in order to raise living standards through greater economic production, it was necessary to promote labor-management cooperation with the view to minimizing work stoppage which results in economic waste.

The President called upon all government offices and instrumentalities as well as private entities and individuals to participate in the proper observance of Labor-Management Cooperation Week. He also called on the schools, various chambers, professional organizations and societies, civic organizations, and service clubs to devote one day during such period to a program for the promotion of ways and means to bring about labor-management cooperation in their economic dealings with one another and the people.

The President, also issued Proclamation No. 345, declaring Monday September 17, 1956, as a special public holiday in the province of Tarlac. The President issued the order upon request of the people of Tarlac who expressed their desire that they be given full opportunity to celebrate the birthday of Francisco S. Makabulos, one of the outstanding Filipino general’s in the revolutionary wars against Spain and the United States, who was born in that province.

THIS evening, the President received Koichiro Asakai, the first Japanese ambassador to the Philippine Republic.

The presentation of credentials ceremony which was held at the Malacañang ceremonial hall, was attended by members of the Cabinet and officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs led by Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently foreign affairs secretary.

Upon arrival at the Malacañang grounds, Ambassador Asakai was given military honors by a detachment of the Presidential Guards Battalion. The Philippine and the Japanese national anthems were played. This was the first time the *Kimigayo*, the Japanese anthem, was played in Malacañang since the Japanese occupation.

In presenting his credentials, Ambassador Asakai said that the Philippine Republic "is one of the most important countries for Japan and therefore I appreciate the honor to be the first Japanese ambassador." He said that the Japanese Emperor "expressed his pleasure and satisfaction over the resumption of normal relations with your country and commanded me to do my utmost to further cement friendly relations between our two countries."

In his response, the President said that with the settlement of the reparations question and the ratification of the San Francisco Peace Treaty, "I assure Your Excellency that the people and the Government of the Philippines are now prepared to resume friendly relations with Japan."

Ambassador Asakai was accompanied by Counsellor Toshio Urabe and six other members of the Japanese Embassy staff. After the ceremony, Ambassador Asakai and his staff were introduced to the Philippine government officials. This was followed by an exchange of toasts between the President and Ambassador Asakai.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this evening was awarded the Freedoms Foundation's Gold Medal, known as the George Washington Medal, for "unparalleled spiritual and practical leadership for God and Country, that man may achieve dignity in true freedom under just representative government to the end that atheistic Communism dies and human conscience lives." These words were inscribed on the tablet that accompanied the medal.

The award was made at the Malacañang ceremonial hall with Dr. Frederick Brown Harris, chaplain of the United States Senate, personally presenting the Gold Medal to President Magsaysay.

The President was the 28th recipient of this award. Part of the citation read by Dr. Harris said that the Freedoms Foundation's National Awards Jury unanimously joined by the Board of Directors and Trustees of the Nation's Awards Organization, cited, commended, and bestowed upon President Magsaysay the medal "that the whole world might see and thus know the valiant, penetrating, spiritual, political, economic, and moral resultant values from the acts of high courage, wise planning, thoughtful administration, and courageous conduct of President Magsaysay."

The citation added that President Magsaysay has carried forward high ideals and noble purposes and "for giving accent to the fundamental belief in God underlying free life and for giving meaning and devotion to government by law under the Constitution, designed to serve and not to rule the people of the Philippines, and for his unending strenuous, effective, direct opposition to willful, cynical, atheistic world socialism, commonly known as Communism."

In his extemporaneous remarks after receiving the George Washington Medal the President said that the Philippines and the United States' common love for freedom has closely bound these two countries in their association since the coming of the Americans to the Philippines up to the present time.

President Magsaysay recalled how Filipinos have continuously fought for their freedom. He said that after the occupation of the Philippines, the Americans prepared the Filipinos for self-government and gave us a new meaning to freedom. He added that the Filipinos' natural love for freedom was further demonstrated during World War II when Filipinos and Americans fought and died together in defense of that freedom.

The President said that after the grant of independence by the United States, the Filipinos kept on fighting to preserve that freedom as shown when the Philippine Government waged an all-out war against communism in the Philippines and also when it sent troops together with those of other free nations to defend democracy in Korea.

But, the President pointed out, to the common man today, freedom and democracy means the freedom to live with three square meals, and the freedom to live a happy life.

He explained that the present Administration was doing its best to enable all Filipinos to enjoy their freedom by means of providing them with all their primary needs, like irrigation systems in order to increase their crops, feeder roads, school houses, health facilities, and other essential necessities of the common people.

The President also recalled how the Philippine Government has succeeded in breaking the back of communism in the Philippines with the aid of American arms and financial assistance.

He expressed great gratitude for the honor bestowed upon him which, he said, was honoring the Filipino people who have consistently shown their love for freedom.

Among those present during the ceremony were the members of the Cabinet headed by Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently foreign affairs secretary; Sen. and Mrs. Fernando Lopez; Mrs. Frederick Brown Harris; Maj. Roland Beasley, courier officer for Dr. Harris; Capts. Arthur T. Orbold, William H. Spaulding, Donald MacDonald, and Donald E. Priest, all of the crew of the plane which flew Dr. and Mrs. Harris; Dr. L. K. Burn, cultural attache of the American Embassy; D. E. Kidstone; and Mrs. R. L. Chambers.

September 12.—WEDNESDAY being a Cabinet meeting day, the President did not receive any caller this morning.

The President stayed in his bedroom after the Cabinet meeting and went over pending state papers.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay and the Cabinet approved today a proposal by Vice-President and concurrently Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia, that the Council of State and the National Security Council be convened at a joint meeting to discuss and appraise the worsening Suez Canal situation.

The Vice-President told the Cabinet that the Department of Foreign Affairs had received periodic reports on the crisis from its diplomatic establishments abroad and that these reports indicated the situation was deteriorating. He also cited latest press reports saying that France and Britain were ready to use force.

The Vice-President recounted the history of the Suez crisis from the time the canal was seized by the Egyptian Government up to the recent failure of the Menzies mission to reach an agreement with Egypt. He cited reports received from Ambassador to the United Kingdom Leon Ma. Guerrero, Ambassador to France Salvador P. Lopez, and Consul General to Egypt Yusup Abubakar.

Press Secretary J. V. Cruz said the main purpose of the joint meeting to be called by the President will be to assess the implications of the Suez crisis—including the eventuality of war—to the Philippines and plot measures to stave off and counteract any adverse effects. He said for example that the outbreak of violence would certainly disturb normal trade processes and the Philippines therefore must be ready to meet such a situation.

The Malacañang spokesman said there was no ground for the people to feel any undue alarm over the situation, considering the canal's distance, the efforts still being exerted for a peaceful settlement, and the unlikelihood of wide-spread violence. He said it was the Government's duty however to keep itself prepared and equipped to meet the implications of the crisis. He said the local implications that could be foreseen were non-military in nature but would nevertheless have important bearing on the lives of the people.

President Magsaysay at the Cabinet meeting also appointed a three-man committee to study a proposal of Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno to acquire by public bidding \$18 million worth of critical construction equipment on "forward credit terms" payable over a period of five years.

Under this proposal, the Department of Public Works and Communications will order, for immediate delivery within one year, needed critical construction equipment which otherwise will take five years to acquire. While the

department has the necessary funds available in pesos, he said such a big order for equipment will necessarily deplete the dollar reserve of the country, if paid outright.

Moreno proposed public bidding notices will be published simultaneously by the Department of Public Works and Communications in Manila and by Philippine diplomatic missions in all commercial centers for the immediate delivery of the \$18 million worth of critical construction materials.

Among the equipment to be purchased are Crawler bulldozers, heavy road graders, dump trucks, front end loaders, rubber-tire tractors, air compressors, light bulldozers, bituminous distributors, light and medium graders, pneumatic tractors, etc.

Secretary Moreno explained the reasons for this request of his department as follows:

(1) The enormous public works program of the government in accelerating rural development, such as the construction of the more than \$150 million irrigation projects all over the country, national highway, feeders roads, and public buildings requires the immediate acquisition of equipment for this construction work.

It was explained by Moreno that while public works have trebled during the present administration, the inadequate equipment being used by the department was not correspondingly and substantially increased, thus hampering the speedy implementation of the Administration's public works construction program.

(2) The expected arrival of reparations materials from Japan cannot be fully taken advantage of if the equipment needed in harnessing these reparations materials are inadequate.

Secretary Moreno pointed out that under the reparations agreement, enormous quantities of construction materials are expected to arrive from Japan and that unless the necessary equipment needed in harnessing these reparations materials are available, the use for which they had been earmarked would be very much delayed.

In this connection, Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevosos said that if the necessary equipment was not available to harness the reparations materials, anticipated employment of more skilled laborers to man the equipment could not be realized. Therefore, Adevosos added, this equipment requisitioned by the public works should be immediately acquired.

(3) Moreno pointed out that the department was still using surplus equipment originally worth P16 million acquired from the defunct Surplus Property Commission after the liberation, which have long passed their maximum efficiency and serviceability. He explained that acquiring equipment would result in more efficient and speedier construction of public works projects of the government.

(4) The proposed system of acquiring these equipment on a forward credit arrangement, staggering the payment within a four-year period, will save the government immediate expenditure of the much needed dollars which would have to be paid outright if the \$18 million were on a cash-and-carry basis.

President Magsaysay told the Cabinet, and especially the committee assigned to study the Moreno request, that if this proposal would be recommended by the committee, to see to it that before any purchase be authorized a public bidding be held. The President added that the widest publicity be given to this bidding to give every company a chance to participate.

During the discussion of this proposal, it was suggested that it might not be necessary to requisition the entire amount of \$18 million as proposed by Moreno, in view of the anticipated arrival of reparations materials from Japan. It was however explained that most of the equipment to be purchased under this proposal was not covered by the Japanese reparations materials. Besides, it was precisely because of the arrival of reparations materials that the necessary equipment should be acquired in order to put them to use, otherwise the country would not immediately benefit from them.

It was also suggested that the government could first make use of the help being extended by the ICA in the acquisition of this needed equipment. It was however explained that the amount of ICA aid in this direction was just sufficient for the public works requirements under the previous administration when public works construction was not undertaken on such a huge scale as it is being done now. It was further pointed out that the ICA aid was for particular specific projects and not for the overall requirements by the present program.

Under the proposal of Secretary Moreno, only \$3,600,000 will be paid by the government for the first year upon delivery of the equipment, the balance to be paid equally in four yearly installments. This arrangement will enable the government to save its dollars and put them to other urgent needs.

The committee to study the Moreno proposal is composed of Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, as chairman, and Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason and Secretary Moreno, as members.

During the Cabinet meeting, Vice-President Garcia also brought to the attention of the President that aside from the sunken ships already salvaged by the Japanese, 311 sunken vessels in the Manila area and 99 in the Cebu area have been discovered.

He explained that it was necessary to make a quick decision as to whether or not the Philippine Government should continue engaging the Japanese salvage teams which had undertaken the first salvage work, otherwise the Japanese salvage teams, together with their ships and equipment would return to Japan. To engage them again afterwards would entail more expenses, he said.

The Vice-President said that it would take the Japanese teams some seven months to salvage these sunken vessels discovered during the first salvage operations. It was estimated that the Manila area would take 122 days to clear and the Cebu area 96 days.

It was revealed that the entire salvage work could cost some \$1,600,000.

The President observed that it might be possible to pay this amount in yen (Japanese currency) from Philippine funds in Tokyo, or that the cost of this salvage work could be charged against reparations payments scheduled for the second year.

The Cabinet took the matter under study.

During the Cabinet meeting, the President, together with NEC Executive Director Andres O. Hizon, Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno, and Reparations Assistant Antonio P. Chanco, went over the final listing of reparations materials from Japan for the first year.

Upon further scrutiny by the President on the urgency of some of the listed requirements, further adjustments were made.

The corrected listing may be ready for release in a day or so. Minister Caesar Lanuza, chief of the Philippine Reparations Office in Tokyo will take with him the final list when he enplanes before the 15th of September.

Upon recommendation of Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, the Cabinet approved the Philippine participation in the second session of the ECAFE Sub-Committee on Trade to be held in Tokyo from October 20 to November 5, 1956.

The President approved the sending of Ambassador Felino Neri, who is already in Tokyo, Minister Caesar Lanuza, and Commerce Undersecretary Perfecto Laguio to represent the Philippines.

The Cabinet also approved the request of the Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Financing Administration (ACCFA) for authority to import 4,000 crates of potatoes for the use of Benguet FACOMAs and 20,000 pounds of onion seeds for planting.

The request for the importation had been endorsed by Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez, as chairman, and Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma and ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo, as members of the Import Board.

The President presided over the Cabinet meeting held at the family dining room from 9:30 a.m. to 1:20 p.m.

THE President ordered the removal of Manuel L. Barot as justice of the peace of Tanjay, Negros Oriental, for failing to inhibit himself from trying a criminal case in which his mother was the offended party and for summarily sentencing the accused who was an illiterate to the 30 days imprisonment.

“The circumstances of this case are such that I cannot regard the respondent’s conduct lightly,” the President said in his Administrative Order No. 216 released today by Malacañang. “It resulted in the jailing for 30 days (not counting the preventive imprisonment) without fair trial of a citizen for acts which in the mind of an impartial judge could at the most have warranted civil redress only.”

The dismissal of the Tanjay judge was the result of an administrative case which arose from a complaint filed with the PCAC by one Agustin F. Olis, charging the respondent judge with having tried and convicted complainant’s client in a criminal case for estafa in which the judge’s mother was the offended party. This was denounced as a violation of section 1 of Rule 126 of the Rules of Court, prohibiting a judge from sitting in cases in which he or his relative within the sixth civil degree are interested.

“If the respondent (judge) did not know it was wrong for him to sit in that case, then he lacks that sense of common decency and fairness so essential in the attributes of anyone called upon to administer justice,” the President said in his administrative order.

Regarding the judge’s defense that no investigation had been conducted because the accused confessed and pleaded guilty, the President pointed out: “The necessity of such investigation became all the more obvious considering that the accused was an illiterate who did not know how to write his own name and was unassisted by any lawyer.

“Another judge might have thought it material and interesting to find out, among other things, who wrote the alleged confession, whether the defendant understood it . . . This clearly shows the imperative necessity of barring judges from trying their own relatives’ cases.”

The dismissal of the Tanjay justice of the peace was ordered on the recommendation of Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason.

PRESIDENT and Mrs. Magsaysay this evening gave a formal dinner in honor of Brig. Gen. and Mrs. William L. Lee at the Malacañang state dining room. Gen. Lee is the outgoing commanding general of the U.S. 13th Air Force at Clark Field, Pampanga.

The guest list follows:

Brig. Gen. and Mrs. William L. Lee, U.S. Ambassador Albert Nufer, Secretary Eulogio Balao, Sen. and Mrs. Emmanuel Pelaez, Sen. Cipriano P. Primicias, Hon. Karl R. Bendetsen, Minister and Mrs. Charles R. Burrows, Rep. Numeriano U. Babao, Admiral and Mrs. Thomas L. Sprague, Lieut. Gen. and Mrs. Jesus Vargas, Press Secretary and Mrs. J. V. Cruz, Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Harper, Rear Admiral and Mrs. Wendell Switzer, Commodore Jose M. Francisco, Col. and Mrs. Benito Ebuena, Col. Alden K. Sibley, Maj. James Ord, Mr. and Mrs. George Aurell, Col. and Mrs. Richard Lowman, Lieut. Col. and Mrs. Lowell Nickodome, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brenn, Mr. and Mrs. John T. Cooper, Jr., Lieut. Col. Emilio Borromeo, and Manuel G. Zamora, Malacañang protocol officer.

September 13.—THIS morning, the President received Ambassador Fermin Sanz Orrio of Spain, who bade him goodbye prior to his departure for his home country upon his retirement from the service. Finding the Palace reception hall and the President's study crowded with provincial delegations, the Spanish Ambassador expressed admiration over the fact that the Chief Executive managed to find time to meet the masses and hear their problems.

Ambassador Orrio limited his call to only two minutes. He informed the President that his successor, Francisco Javier Conde Garcia, would arrive in Manila on Monday.

The President received no less than 800 people this morning. He received his callers at his study from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

After receiving Ambassador Orrio, the President received the thanks of a grateful Ifugao native, the life of whose son had been saved by prompt government assistance.

Tayaban Baon, a native of barrio Baging, Kiangnan, Ifugao, Mountain Province, called at Malacañang this morning with his seven-year old son, Jose, who had just been discharged at the Philippine General Hospital following the extraction of a two-inch nail the boy had swallowed while playing in their mountain barrio.

Attired in G-strings, the grateful father happily recounted to the President how kindly they had been treated by members of the hospital staff during the three days his son had been confined there. Cesar Codamon, SWA social worker in Kiangnan, accompanied father and son to the President's office.

Sometime last week, the President received at Malacañang an urgent telegram from the bairio lieutenant of Baging informing him of the boy's plight. The President immediately ordered the SWA to have the boy brought to Manila for proper treatment. Baon and his son called at Malacañang this morning to thank the Chief Executive before returning to their native mountain barrio.

A delegation from the Nueva Ecija Bus Operators Association headed by its president, Vivencio Sinaguinan, presented a petition for the withdrawal of the Luzon Bus Line busses of the MRR from the Cagayan-Manila route as they were offering "ruinous competition" to private bus operators. The President promised to take the matter up with MRR General Manager Salvador T. Villa.

Officers and members of the Pampanga Mayors' League headed by its president, Mayor Miguel Baluyut of San Fernando, sought the appointment of Miguel Mallari, assistant provincial fiscal, as permanent provincial fiscal of the province. This group which included 16 of the 22 mayors of Pampanga was accompanied by Board Member Francisco Nepomuceno.

A large delegation of non-Christians from Tarlac requested that the government-owned lands on which they are residing and which they are farming be given to them. Accompanied by Rev. Ernesto P. Sjoborg, an American missionary, the group informed the President that these lands had been handed down to them by their predecessors. The Chief Executive advised them to file homestead applications with the Bureau of Lands.

Newly-elected officers of the NP Pasay City chapter called to pay their respects and to reiterate their pledge of loyalty. Headed by Francisco Victor, chapter president, the group included Manuel San Juan and Segundo Mastrili, vice-presidents; Cornelio Reyes, secretary; Councilors Ansberto Paredes and Pascual Veron Cruz; former Acting Mayor Adolfo C. Santos, and other NP leaders in the city.

Other delegations were those from Labo, Camarines Norte, headed by Rep. Fernando Pajarillo and Mayor Felix V. Tenorio; from Silang, Cavite, led by Mayor Enrique Asuncion; from Naga City headed by Mayor Monico Imperial; from Cabugao, Ilocos Sur, headed by Mayor Lucio Zabala; from Naguilian, La Union, headed by Mayor Federico Estcpa; from Cabuyao, Laguna, accompanied by Mayor Mauro Alimagno; from Pilar and Mariveles, Bataan, headed jointly by Mayors Joaquin Banzon and Jose Advincua; from Obando and Paombong, Bulacan, led by Mayors Florencio Lumabas and Magno Gatchalian; and from Sorsogon accompanied by Gov. Juan G. Frivaldo.

Among individual callers were Reps. Guillermo Sanchez of Agusan, Mateo Pecson of Masbate, Francisco Ortega and Manuel T. Cases of La Union, Serafin Salvador of Rizal, Felix Fuentebella of Aibay, Ismael Veloso of Davao, Jacobo Gonzales of Laguna, and Jose R. Nuguid of Bataan; Govs. Juan Triviño of Camarines Sur, Marcos Malupa of Batanes, and Alejo Santos of Bulacan; and Councilor Leonardo Garcia of Manila.

September 14.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning gave a breakfast honoring U. S. Senator Allen Ellender, who paid a courtesy call. The affair was purely social.

The visiting Senator, who is leaving for Tokyo this afternoon, was accompanied to Malacañang by U. S. Ambassador Albert Nufer and ICA Director Harry Brenn.

Also present during the breakfast which lasted from 8 to 9 a.m. were Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sens. Emmanuel Pelaez and Cipriano Fnmieias, and Cebu City Mayor Sergio Osmeña. Jr.

After the breakfast, the Chief Executive presented a box of Philippine cigars to Sen. Ellender.

The President also took occasion to felicitate Sen. Primicias, who is celebrating his 55th birthday today. The President presented him a gift a barong tagalog.

THE President tested this morning the first two-way TV-telephone built in the Philippines by electronics students of the FEATI by holding brief conversations with several Malacañang assistants from the music room of Malacañang Palace.

The President first spoke with Assistant Executive Secretary Enrique C. Quema, who was at his office in the Executive Building, and then with Protocol Officer Manuel Zamora. The two officials took advantage of the occasion to consult the President on certain pending matters.

The President was impressed by the clearness of the images of his assistants he saw on the viewer. Dean Gregorio Y. Zara. FEATI vice-president, who devised the apparatus out of army surplus materials, said that with better materials and further experiments, the machine could be made more compact and more practical for commercial use.

Zara informed the President that the machine had been constructed by FEATI technology students with the assistance of Professors A. del Pan and J Bernardino at a cost of P2,000 per unit. The apparatus was first publicly tested in November of last year during the National Science Week, Zara said.

EARLIER this morning, the President received Prof. Tsai Chi-Kun, Chinese conductor, now in Manila for a series of concerts. Accompanied by Prof. Ramon Tapales, violin soloist, and Mrs. Remedios Bosch-Jimenez, soprano, Prof. Tsai invited the Chief Executive to attend his first concert at the FEU auditorium on September 21 for the benefit of the Peace and Amelioration Fund Campaign.

The President also received Vicente Albano Pacis, former press secretary and now chief of the publications department of the University of the East, who recently arrived from a trip abroad on a mission for the President and also for the U. E. Pacis had been requested by the Chief Executive to study ways of promoting cultural and trade relations between the Philippines and other countries.

Other callers this morning included Ambassador Roberto Regala, who recently returned from Australia, and Lt. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff.

September 15.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay felicitated this morning Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, who is celebrating his birthday in his hometown at Balanga, Bataan.

Full text of the President's message dispatched this noon from Malacañang follows:

“Mrs. Magsaysay joins me in wishing you many happy returns of the day. On this day you can certainly look back proudly on your past distinguished record in the judiciary and at the same time be equally proud of your present dedicated service to the people. Best wishes for continued good health and warmest personal regards.”

THIS afternoon, the President inaugurated the 146th irrigation pump in the country when he cut the ribbon and pulled the switch which set the waters flowing of the Cabago Irrigation System in barrio Calison, Calumpit, Bulacan.

In a brief extemporaneous speech in Tagalog which followed immediately the ceremony, the President told the barrio people that one of his first acts as President was full-blast implementation of the Administration’s huge irrigation program. He explained that through irrigation the poor barrio farmers would be able to enrich their lands and produce more crops which will improve their living standards.

The obsession of the present Administration, the President said, was to ameliorate the living conditions of all the people, especially those in the barrios, who had been neglected in the past. “There have been complaints against me that I am giving most of my time to the poor,” the President said. He pleaded that he be allowed to dedicate more of his attention to the poor because they had been long forgotten and were most in need of his help.

“I know what irrigation will do to once unproductive lands and what this will mean to the lives of the poor people. Now the Administration has some P150 million irrigation projects being implemented all over the country and the public works department is working in full blast to finish them. The people of our country should be grateful to the Nacionalista administration for this great boon,” the President said.

The President was applauded several times. The audience shouted, “*Mabuhay ang re-eleccion.*”

The Chief Executive inaugurated a 20-inch pump to be operated by the Cabago Irrigation Association of barrio Calison. The irrigation pump will irrigate some 330 hectares of land and will benefit some 120 families.

The system costs P39,000, It is capable of pumping some 10,000 gallons of water per minute.

Mayor Amado Pineda of Calumpit in his brief remarks said that the poor people were nearest “to the heart of the President. That was why, he said, the President was doing everything in his power to help them.

Gov. Alejo Santos of Bulacan, who introduced the President, said that the Chief Executive loved the common people so much he was dedicating his major efforts to their welfare.

The President motored to this barrio from Malacañang, arriving a little before 3 p.m. He immediately inaugurated the irrigation pump and this was followed by a brief program on an improvised platform near the irrigation pump. The President was met at Malolos by Bulacan provincial officials headed by Gov. Alejo Santos.

The Chief Executive was fetched from Malacañang by Sens. Francisco Delgado and Francisco Rodrigo. He was accompanied by his aide, Major Jose Estrella. Malacañang newspapermen also accompanied the Chief Executive in another car.

From barrio Calison, the President rushed to Malolos and spoke at the Barosoain ceremonies.

LATER this afternoon, the President rallied the Filipino people “to love and cherish our independence even as the fathers of our country suffered, fought, and died for it”.

The President recalled the sacrifices of Filipino heroes of the revolution against Spain in their fight for freedom and emphasized their great love of God and country. He stressed that the young people of today should always keep in mind and emulate these twin guideposts which had inspired Filipino heroes as they struggled for independence.

The Chief Executive was the only speaker at the afternoon rites of the 58th anniversary of the Revolutionary Congress of Malolos held at the patio of historic Barasoain church, where the Revolutionary Congress had been convened. He spoke extemporaneously in Tagalog before thousands who thronged the spacious churchyard.

Pointing to the historic church, the President said that the Barasoain church was the symbol of the Filipinos' love of freedom. He added that any foreign power which might have designs on the Philippines should first think a thousand times and look at this symbolic church which was a strong rallying point of Filipinos in defending their liberties.

President Magsaysay paid tribute to the Malolos Jaycees for their civic-spiritedness in sponsoring the celebration of this year's anniversary of the Malolos Revolutionary Congress. He said that it was necessary that we keep alive the flame that had fanned the Filipino struggle for liberty. He also praised General Emilio Aguinaldo, the first president of the Republic for his patriotism and courage in leading the revolution which later culminated in Philippine independence.

The President's speech was preceded by a civic and military parade which ended at the Barasoain churchyard. AFP contingents, ROTC units of Manila universities, civil organizations, and members of the *Veteranos de la Revolucion* association, in their *rayadillo* uniforms, participated in the parade.

Seated on the stage with the President were Gen. Aguinaldo. Sens. Francisco Delgado and Francisco Rodrigo, Rep. Rogaciano Mercado of Bulacan, Gov. Alejo Santos of Bulacan, Malolos Mayor Felix T. Reyes, Jaycee President Luis Ma. Araneta, Malolos Jaycees President Jos PW Tantoco, Minister Young Kee Kim of Korea, Robert Oliver, visiting author, and Jayceerettes.

In the course of his extemporaneous speech, the President recalled what the Tagalog poet, Balagtas, said, "*Ang hindi marunong lumingon sa pinang-galingan hindi makararating sa paroroonan.*" Expanding on the quotation, the President said that "we as a nation cannot go very far unless we look back to the exemplary lives of our heroes and patriots who showed us the way in fighting for freedom and in building our nation."

The President praised Gen. Aguinaldo for his role in the struggle for Philippine independence. He read a portion of a historical account telling of Aguinaldo's participation in the revolution.

"We should honor our heroes because we owe our freedom to their sufferings and sacrifices, their labors and blood. We should not fail them," the President said.

The President started his speech at about 4:05 p.m. and finished at about 4:23 p.m. He was applauded many times.

Mrs. Salvacion Oppus-Yñiguez sang two Tagalog songs. Malolos Jaycee President Tantoco was the master of ceremonies. The Philippine Constabulary Band furnished the music.

Immediately after the program, the President motored back to Malacañang. From the platform to his car, the President shook hands with hundreds of people.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay put his foot down this evening on talk of politics and the presidential election next year and called for the devotion of the nation's energy to the "development of our strength and wellbeing." The occasion was his speech before the Philippine Medical Association at a dinner in the Manila Winter Garden, officially launching the first nationwide celebration of Medicine Week.

About 500 persons attended the dinner which also featured a tableau presented by nurses of the North General Hospital and a Moro dance by a delegation from Mindanao.

Secretary of Health Paulino J. Garcia introduced the President. "We have too little time for nation building and spend too much for political campaign," the President declared.

He said he hoped that with public attention now focused on national health and medical science, he could get at least a week's respite from politics."

"You may have noted that there is no need to proclaim "Politics Week," he said. "Every week, it seems, is Politics Week in our country. We are politically super-conscious, apparently an over compensation for the long colonial status we had.

"With the election still one year and two months away, there already is talk about candidates and political strategies. If only the time and energy spent by our people in barber shops and coffee shops on political discussions were channeled into gardening, poultry, or handicraft, our country certainly would gain more by it."

The President said independence has shifted the nation's problem, from politics and economics and the people must now adjust themselves to the change.

He urged that the people "concentrate on the development of our strength and well being as a nation, instead of dissipating our energies on political competition which too frequently weakens us by sowing confusion and fear."

Turning to the medical profession, President Magsaysay noted with gratification that the Philippine Medical Association has started a nationwide "free medical assistance for indigents."

He said the project complements the Administration's rural health program and that he hoped that other organizations would follow suit with their own "community service."

Mayor Fidel D. Dones of Cavite City launched today the distribution of free medicines to the sick, needy residents of this city in observation of Medicine Week.

Dones also conferred with the local medical society to take up the establishment of medical and consultation clinic which will render free services to the indigent residents.

At the same time, the city mayor urged all personnel of the city health office to make a round up of all unhealthful places in this city. Mayor Dones, in consultation with the city health officer, also set a regular schedule for market inspection.

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Month in Review: September 16-30, 1956

OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

September 16.—AFTER hearing mass and eating breakfast with his family this morning, the President motored with the First Lady to the Doctors' Hospital to visit Servillano Aquino, who has been hospitalized for a rib operation.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning emphasized the importance of labor in our national existence as a free nation when he said that labor was the basic element in the country.

He made these extemporaneous remarks in Tagalog after delivering his speech at the opening of the first national convention of the Confederation of Citizens Labor Unions at the Moonlit Terrace of the Central Hotel. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 5471-5474, for the full text of the President's speech.)

The President added that without a strong labor element all levels of society in our country would crumble, "including the government which I now head."

Speaking about the economic development of the country, the President reiterated that he welcomed foreign capital, particularly that which tended to develop mineral resources. He hit detractors of the entry of foreign capital when he said that those critics did not realize there were thousands of our countrymen who were ready to work.

Aside from capital, the President said, "we lack the necessary implements with which we can tap our mineral resources which are one hope of relieving the unemployment problem."

In concluding his extemporaneous remarks, the President reiterated his desire to construct a labor hall which he had pledged during his speech in the convention of the PTUC about a month ago. He said he was still looking for a site on which to construct a hall which every laborer of the country could be proud of.

Before delivering his speech, the President was introduced to the conventionists by Leon O. Ty, who called the President a man who was truly concerned with the problems of labor.

The President was fetched at Malacañang at 10:45 a.m. for his CCLU speaking engagement by Leon O. Ty. He returned a few minutes before 12 noon.

September 17.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning received Maj. Gen. John B. Ackerman, new U.S. 13th Air Force chief, who paid a courtesy call. The President welcomed Ackerman and said he was "glad to have you with us."

Ackerman responded with a pledge to follow a program which will promote good relationship with the Filipino people.

U. S. Ambassador Albert Nufer, Gen. Lawrence Kuter, U. S. Far East Air Force commander, and Maj. Gen. Sory Smith, USAF commander at Hickman Field, Hawaii, accompanied Ackerman to Malacañang. Also present were Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez and Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao.

Before seeing the President, Ackerman inspected an honor guard. The party arrived at Malacañang at 9 a.m.

THE President created today the Presidential Commission on Good Government to investigate charges of graft and anomalies in the government, to recommend proper administrative action against guilty parties, and to order action against them whenever justified by the evidence.

The five-man commission will be chairmanned by Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason. One of the members will be nominated by the majority party, another to be nominated by the Liberal Party, and two others will be selected from outstanding citizens drawn from private life.

The commission not only will accept and try charges presented against government officials but will take the initiative in following up leads that may point to anomalies in the public service. It is authorized to seek assistance and draw upon the personnel of all other offices in the government.

President Magsaysay said the creation of this commission “is one more evidence of this administration’s desire, implemented from the very beginning, to give the people clean and honest government.” He expressed the hope that the Liberals would extend their full support and cooperation to this objective.

Details regarding the organization of the commission were being worked out in an executive order under preparation at Malacañang.

In proper cases, the commission will recommend the necessary administrative action against guilty officials. Where criminal prosecution is justified by the evidence, the commission will launch the necessary proceedings through its chairman, the secretary of justice, who will order the appropriate prosecutors to file action.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today directed NARIC General Manager Jacinto Gavino to study ways and means of purchasing locally produced high-grade rice at a “good price” in order to help the farmers even, if necessary, at a little loss to the government.

In a brief conference with Col. Gavino who had been summoned to Malacañang this morning, the President expressed disapproval of the proposal to export high-grade rice and barter it with lower-grade rice which it was claimed, was more within the means of the Filipinos.

“By purchasing the rice ourselves, we will be helping the farmers dispose of their produce as soon as possible and at the same time make high-grade rice available to our people.” he said.

Following the conference, the President received Florentine Das, the intrepid Filipino adventurer who crossed the Pacific from Hawaii to this country on a sailboat. Das vehemently denied press reports that he had expressed disappointment over the alleged lack of appreciation of the government for his feat.

Das informed the President that he had never expressed disappointment to any reporter and that those yarns about him had been “manufactured.” He also took occasion to reiterate his gratitude for the receptions and honors bestowed upon him since his arrival in this country.

A large delegation from the Producers and Exporters Association of the Philippines headed by its president, Gaudencio E. Antonino, presented the President with a petition proposing amendments to the revised barter rules implementing Republic Act No. 1410. Among the amendments proposed were:

- (1) Inclusion of “utility producers” among those entitled to barter privileges;
- (2) Increase of the dividing line between minor and major export products from P1,000,000 to \$1,000,000;
- (3) Allowing barter with free ports and with countries which do not have exchange controls;
- (4) Inclusion of quota products among the exports allowed for barter, irrespective of whether the quota is filled or not; and
- (5) Increase of the barter privilege on major exports products from 15 per cent to 25 per cent.

The President promised the delegation that he would give their petition “serious consideration.”

A delegation from the National Airmen’s Association headed by Miguel Campos, association president, requested a regular annual dollar quota for the importation of airplanes and spare parts. Accompanied by Maj. Arturo Sevilla, acting CAA administrator, the delegation composed of private pilots all over the country explained that although they flew for business and for sports, they also undertook mercy missions and could be of great service to the country, especially in times of emergency.

Another large delegation from the Philippine Medical Women’s Association requested a government lot on which to construct a Cancer Detection Center and Laboratory in Diliman, near the U.P. site. The group was headed by Dr. Rosita Rivera-Ramirez, association president.

Other delegations were those from Macabebe, Pampanga, headed by Mayor Domingo Flores; from Maragondon, Cavite, headed by Mayor Telesforo Unas; from Quezon, headed by ex-Gov. Vicente Constantino and Dr. Claro Robles; and from Samar, headed by Gov. Fernando R. Veloso.

The President received Celso Al. Carunungan, Filipino writer representing Worldwide Press Service in the Philippines, who paid his respects. Carunungan was accompanied by A. E. Santa Elena.

Individual callers at the Palace this morning included Agriculture Undersecretary Jaime Ferrer, Malcolm Adiseshiah, assistant director general of the UNESCO, and Rep. Jose R. Nuguid of Bataan.

PRESS Secretary J. V. Cruz said today that President Magsaysay was disappointed with the Supreme Court’s delay in disposing of administrative charges filed against judges of first instance.

Cruz said the President felt this delay, affecting cases filed as early as November, 1954, did not promote the Administration’s determined drive to give the best possible government to the people.

The Malacañang spokesman pointed out none of these cases filed as early as 1954 had been decided yet by the high tribunal.

Four judges of first instance have been charged by the Office of the Solicitor General with falsification of certificates of service, tantamount to falsification of public documents. The four complaints were filed November 26, 1954; February 18, 1955; May 30, 1955; and June 22, 1955.

Besides these cases, four other court of first instance judges also have been administratively charged before the Supreme Court by private individuals.

Seven other cases involving falsification of service records by judges of first instance are under study by the Office of the Solicitor General.

A judge signing a certificate of service certifies that all special proceedings, applications, petitions, and all civil and criminal cases which had been submitted to him for decision and pending for a period of not more than 90 days have been determined and decided by him on or before the time of making certificate. A judge failing to accomplish this certificate may not collect his pay until he has brought his docket up to the date within the 90-day period.

Cruz said the President hoped that the long-pending cases against judges of first instance before the Supreme Court would soon be decided so that the Administration could proceed with investigating and processing complaints against other erring members of the judiciary.

September 18.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning again requested Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia to receive his scheduled callers at Malacañang in his desire to clear his desk of important pending matters preparatory to his departure for Davao tomorrow morning where he expects to stay for two days.

ON behalf of the President, Vice-President Garcia this morning administered the oath of office to Emilio Goduco, senior board member of Nueva Ecija, as acting governor of the province, vice Gov. Amado Aleta, who is going on leave for a month. Also inducted was Mayor Nicetas Viesca of San Antonio, president of the Nueva Ecija mayors league, as acting provincial board member in place of Goduco.

The oath-taking ceremonies were held in the presence of a large delegation from Nueva Ecija accompanied by Rep. Celestino Juan and headed by Gov. Aleta. The delegation included all the town mayors, other provincial and municipal officials of the province, friends, and relatives of the inductees.

Earlier this morning, the Vice-President received municipal officials from Vigan, Ilocos Sur, who presented him with a resolution recently passed by their municipal council endorsing the Magsaysay-Garcia team in next year's presidential election. Headed by Mayor Lorenzo Formoso, the group included Vice-Mayor Atilano Nolasco and Councilors Pedro Colcol, Librado Espiritu, Francisco Averia, Florentino Puzon, Susano Ancheta, Florencio Arcano, and Juan Florentine. Also with the group were Proctus Ibe, municipal treasurer, Florentino Lique, and Dr. Mariano Favia.

Vice-President Garcia received scheduled callers at the President's study in Malacañang from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Vice-President first conferred with Ambassador Leon Ma. Guerrero, who called to report following his arrival from London yesterday afternoon.

Then he received Rep. Felipe Garduque of Cagayan, who headed a delegation which requested construction materials for the repair of schools and other public buildings destroyed by recent typhoons.

Another delegation of provincial officials of Camarines Sur, headed by Acting Gov. Jack Arroyo also requested financial aid for their province. This group was accompanied by Rep. Felix Fuentebella.

Other delegations were those from Masbate, headed by Gov. Jesus Almero; from Mindoro Occidental, led by Gov. Mariano Tajonera; from Palawan, headed by Mayor Domingo Mercado of Taytay, and from Manila, accompanied by Rep. Angel M. Castano.

THE President signed Proclamation No. 346, declaring Thursday, September 27, as a special public holiday in the province of Batangas and Lipa City in honor of the birthday of Miguel Malvar, the last Filipino general to surrender to the Americans during the Philippine-American War.

The President said that he had declared Malvar's birthday anniversary a holiday in order that the people of Batangas could celebrate the occasion with appropriate ceremonies.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay and Burmese Minister U Pe Kin this evening reiterated the determination of the Governments of the Philippines and Burma to establish peace in this area in particular, and in the rest of the world in general.

The Burmese minister presented his credentials to President Magsaysay as the first diplomatic representative, of Burma to the Republic at 7 o'clock this evening in the Malacañang ceremonial hall.

Government officials headed by Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently foreign affairs secretary, and Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon attended the presentation ceremony. After Minister U had presented his letters of credence, he introduced the members of his staff to the President and the Philippine government officials. Afterwards the President and the minister exchanged toasts.

The President also received this evening Ambassador Leon Ma. Guerrero, who was summoned from London to report on the Suez Canal crises.

Malacañang was silent on Guerrero's preliminary report to the President. Details of the President's conference with Guerrero were withheld pending the Envoy's scheduled briefing of the Council of State and the National Security Council.

September 19.—IN spite of a slight fever the previous day, the President fulfilled a two-day speaking engagement and inspection trip in Davao.

Accompanied by some members of the Cabinet and newsmen, the President made the trip as scheduled aboard three Air Force planes. They took off at Nichols Air Base, at 4.45 a.m. and landed at Davao City's airport at 10:00 a.m., an hour and 10 minutes more than the usual flying time, for they avoided typhoon *Gilda* by flying over Palawan.

Upon the presidential party's arrival, the President was welcomed by Davao Gov. Alejandro Almendras, Rep, Ismael Veloso, and Davao City Mayor Carmelo Porras, who headed a big crowd. The President described the reception in his honor as "unprecedented" among his many trips to the provinces since the presidential elections.

From the Sasa airport near Davao City, the President rode in a motorcade to the city where he had his breakfast at the home of Paciano Bongoy, a Malacañang technical assistant.

Speaking extemporaneously, at the parent-teacher association's auditorium in Davao City, the President warned against grafters in public service, branding them as "traitors to the country and the Administration."

He called on the people to help get crooked officials ousted. He appealed to the civic consciousness of the people, urging them to testify against crooked officials in order to raise the level of public service.

"I am asking your support," the President said. "When I say support, I mean in everything, including the Government's campaign against graft and corruption."

The President assailed persons using his name to commit graft in the government." Beware of crooked people, especially those using my name to secure favors from the government," he warned.

The President was guest speaker at the joint seminars of the leagues of the municipal councils and the barrio councils of Davao.

After speaking in Davao City, the President and his party motored to Digos, 60 kilometers away, where he inaugurated a hydroelectric plant. The President made unscheduled speeches in Sta. Cruz town, where he was stopped by the people, and in Digos, where he lambasted the operator of the hydroelectric plant which he inaugurated, for charging excessive rates for the electricity used by consumers.

The President cancelled a Cabinet meeting scheduled at Digos because only four Cabinet members were able to make the trip: namely, Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno, Press Secretary J. V. Cruz, and Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona.

Also with the presidential party were Sen. Roseller T. Lim and Jose Panganiban, NDC manager.

Later in Dalião, a sitio of Davao City, the President laid the cornerstone of a ramie degumming, spinning, and textile mill which the National Development Company will set up.

Speaking at Dalião, the President said the ramie industry will help the nation attain self-sufficiency. He deplored the fact that the country is importing P180 million worth of textiles every year.

He lambasted the past Liberal administration for having "dissipated dollars in useless projects" without setting up industries which would make use of local resources. He reiterated his administration's policy of promoting industrial projects which would utilize to the maximum local raw materials.

The President said he saw no reason why industries using imported raw materials should be given priority over those using locally-grown products.

After inaugurating the ramie degumming plant in Daliao, the President returned to Davao City, arriving there about 5:30 p.m.

IN the evening, the President addressed a public rally at Quezon Park and then attended a reception and ball in his honor held at the Boy Scout's auditorium.

In the biggest rally ever held in Davao City, President Magsaysay told a widely cheering gathering that the National Government has extended a total of P40 million aid to Davao since the beginning of his administration.

The President told the meeting held in Quezon Park that the Administration was devoting its efforts to the uplift of the rural masses because only by building up the barrios could a nation become strong.

President Magsaysay also pledged that the serious squatters problem of Davao province would be solved with justice tempered with human understanding. He said that out-and-out squatters who maliciously settled on lands which they knew belonged to others would be evicted summarily but those who occupied private lands in mistaken belief that these were public property and had raised crops and plants of many years' standing would be given a chance to own their lots through government expropriation. He recalled that in many instances unscrupulous Bureau of Lands employees had certified private lands as public lands to mulct unsuspecting settlers.

The President" said, "Persons sincerely trying to make an honest living should be helped, not punished."

The President's reception in Davao City was described by local officials, among them Gov. Alejandro Almendras and Rep. Veloso, as even more enthusiastic and wilder than the 1953 reception. Both said that if the President ran for re-election next year, the margin would be bigger yet.

September 20.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning breakfasted at the house of Rep. Ismael Veloso in Davao with visiting Manila dignitaries and Davao provincial and city officials.

After breakfast, the President proceeded to Madapo, Davao City, to lay the cornerstone of the Davao Metropolitan Waterworks.

In five speeches in this province today, the President again assailed the Liberal Party for neglecting the rural areas.

He claimed that the Liberals in four years gave Davao only P4 million in public works projects. In contrast, he said, his administration in two and a half years had given more than P40 million for waterworks and feeder roads 'to step up agricultural production in Mindanao to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

Speaking extemporaneously at the Tagum Development Company, the President announced the establishment of an abaca decorticating plant to improve the hemp industry. He urged settlers here to improve abaca products for the world market.

The President motored to the southwestern coastal towns of Davao, completing his two-day visit to southern Davao towns today.

He laid the cornerstone for the Metropolitan Waterworks at Madapo district. He then proceeded to Tagum, where he inaugurated the Bincunpan steel bridge. He also spoke at Panabo, where he was stopped by residents en route to Tagum. The President likewise spoke at the Davao Maternity Hospital.

Tonight he conferred with Prisons Director Alfredo Bunye at the Davao Penal Colony.

Earlier, the President had a luncheon conference with the Davao Producers Association at the TADECO plantation.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay announced tonight he would fire Undersecretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources Jaime Ferrer as acting manager of the National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration.

The President blamed Ferrer for the continued operation of the NARRA project in this province although there was no reason for its existence.

He made the announcement after issuing an order abolishing the project and recommending the prosecution in court of Maj. Porfirio Jain project superintendent, for mauling the Panabo town settlers' lawyer.

The President's outburst on the NARRA project in Davao resulted from a complaint of Amado Reclusado, a lawyer, that Jain was seeking to oust the settlers of Panabo.

Upon hearing the complaint, the President summoned Lieut. Col. Vicente Luna, provincial commander, and ordered him to file charges against Jain for mauling Reclusado.

Reclusado pointed out that 100 hectares of Panabo had already been subdivided and were ready for distribution.

"There is no need for NARRA to take over the land if it is already subdivided," the President said.

The President and his party have been forced to extend their stay another night at the Tagum Development Company in view of inclement weather. They are scheduled to take off for Manila at nine o'clock tomorrow morning.

PRESS Secretary J. V. Cruz issued the following statement this morning at Davao City:

"It is a matter of record that an administrative case against one judge of a court of first instance has been submitted, to the Supreme Court for decision as long ago as July 17, 1954. The case was submitted by an investigator, then a justice of the Court of Appeals. Until now the Supreme Court has not yet handed down its decision. The respondent judge is still in active service; so this case cannot be said to have become moot."

THE President slept tonight in the plantation house of Antonio Floirendo at the Tagum Development Company near the Davao Penal Colony. Col. Benito Ebuena, PAF chief, had advised the President against flying this evening for Manila on account of bad weather over the city.

September 21.—AFTER breakfast at Floirendo's plantation house this morning, the President went to the Davao Penal Colony and inspected the plants in the area. He was fascinated by the animals he saw in the zoo of the colony.

The President conferred with officials of the Bureau of Prisons headed by Director Alfredo M. Bunye after going around the penal colony.

Upon his return to the Tagum Development Company after his conference with Bureau of Prisons officials at the penal colony, the President was kept busy receiving numerous callers.

Among the President's many callers was Maj. Porfirio Jain, who had been denounced to the President for allegedly seeking to oust the settlers in a government lot in the NARRA project in Davao.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay held up action on the NARRA controversy in Davao and set the stage for a full inquiry into the matter, after hearing the side of Maj. Jain, in charge of the NARRA project in Davao, who saw him this noon to deny and refute complaints lodged against him by Amado Reclusado, a lawyer allegedly representing the settlers in the project.

Reclusado had charged yesterday evening that the NARRA was depriving the tenants in its settlement of lands which they already had cultivated and was placing new tenants on such lands. Reclusado also had charged that Jain had mauled him allegedly for defending the rights of the original settlers.

Jain told the President the truth was that the NARRA was allegedly protecting the settlers from paying exorbitant fees to Reclusado to gain their patent rights to their lands. He said Reclusado was charging the settlers far more than the NARRA for the same service of providing them with patent rights.

In view of these conflicting claims, the President held up action on the NARRA controversy, pending an inquiry into the matter to determine the truth. Among the steps he had planned upon hearing the original charges against Jain were to abolish the NARRA project in Davao and relieve Agriculture Undersecretary Jaime Ferrer as NARRA acting general manager and board chairman. The President later explained he had planned this action against Ferrer if an inquiry should show that the charges were true and he had sanctioned Jain's acts.

In the meantime, the President ordered Jain to see to it that original settlers in the NARRA settlement were not disturbed before any attempt was made to place new set of tenants in the settlement. He said the efforts they had exerted towards cleaning and planting their lots must be respected by the NARRA.

The President also instructed him to organize the settlers into FACOMA cooperatives to enable them to obtain assistance from the ACCFA in the form of work animals and farm implements.

Jain saw the President at the Tagum Development Co. compound in Tagum, Davao, where the Chief Executive spent the entire morning receiving delegations and individual callers, interrupted only by a brief visit to the Davao Penal Colony. The President had breakfast and lunch at the TADECO compound, owned by Antonio Floirendo, Davao abaca planter.

The continuous stream of callers who streamed into Tagum held up the President's departure. He finally took off from Sasa airfield of Davao City at 2:40 p.m., arriving in Manila at 7 p.m. after his plane, the *Pagasa*, had circled over the city for 45 minutes for an instrument landing.

Before leaving Davao, the President also gave substance to his pronouncements for humane treatment of the squatter problem in Davao province by ordering the provincial fiscal to desist from appealing a court decision favoring war veterans who had been permitted to settle on former Japanese lands in 1947.

The director of plant industry had filed suit against these veterans to recover the land on which they had settled, to serve as an experimental station. The land involved was 100 hectares of the 1,015-hectare estate of the Ohta Development Co., which had been transferred to Philippine Government ownership after the last war.

The veterans in 1947 had been permitted by the defunct NAFCO to lease 100 hectares of this property on condition that they paid part of their produce to the NAFCO as payments. The veterans had fulfilled this condition.

A subsequent government order, however, awarded the 100 hectares to the Bureau of Plant Industry for use as an experimental station, but the bureau could not take over owing to the refusal of the veterans to vacate. The bureau sued for their eviction.

In his decision, Judge Enrique A. Fernandez noted that the veterans had introduced many permanent improvements on their lots and had complied with the conditions of the lease. He said the Government's demand to recover the property was "patently unjust" and "would push the respondents to misery and despair, giving them ground to doubt the sincerity of the Government." Fernandez threw out the suit.

The President ordered that the Government's appeal of this decision be withdrawn after he was advised of the facts. At a public rally in Davao City last Wednesday night, he urged humane consideration of the squatter problem, pointing out that persons sincerely trying to make an honest living must be helped rather than punished.

The lease contract awarded to the veterans gave them the option to purchase their lots after five years.

THE President returned this evening from an extended tour of Davao province, in a rough airplane ride which sent all the fire engines of the Civil Aeronautics Administration and the ambulances of the Air Force to Nichols Air Base to cope with any emergency.

After the President's plane had circled for 45 minutes over Manila, probing for a break through the thick overcast skies, it at last managed to land at the air base about 7:00 p.m.

Col. Ebuena, who piloted the presidential plane *Pagasa*, said that visibility over the Manila area was poor and he had to probe through the rain-lashed area until he finally sighted the airport, following directions from the ground control approach center.

The Manila International Airport control tower had a hectic time guiding in the presidential plane. To clear the area over Manila of any aircraft, the control tower directed four other planes which were about to land, to other areas in order to avoid any collision, as they were flying with instruments.

The President, who slept throughout the flight since his plane took off from the Sasa airfield in Davao City at 2:45 p.m., was roused up from his bed in the plane as the aircraft "rocked and rolled" through the dense-clouds over Batangas. He appeared nonchalant although members of his party were tense and showed signs of airsickness.

Those who met the President at the airport said the landing operation caused a lot of excitement among MIA officials and Air Force men. It was one of the roughest trips of the President since his election.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay hailed this evening the revival of the Club Filipino, a civic social organization in the Philippines, after he had inaugurated the new association's building.

The club's edifice is the historic Bachrach mansion known as the Casa Blanca at the corner of Buenos Aires Street and Manga Avenue, Sta. Mesa.

The President inaugurated the new Club Filipino building a few minutes after he had landed at the Manila International Airport following a rough plane trip from Davao this evening.

He also signed a membership application to the club. He said he was joining the Club Filipino, saying it was a tribute to the ability of civic-spirited Filipinos to form their own association.

In inaugurating the new club building, the President said he was glad that the association had succeeded in acquiring the historic Bachrach mansion after encountering numerous difficulties to revive the association.

President Magsaysay arrived at the new Club Filipino building at 7:30 o'clock. Mrs. Magsaysay went to the club building earlier, at 6:15 p.m.

September 22.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning had breakfast with Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson, Vice-Mayor Jesus M. Roces, and Rep. Joaquin Roces.

During the breakfast, the conferees discussed proposed improvement of Manila, more important of which were:

(1) The construction of a link between Plaza Moriones and Zurbaran to which the Tutuban Station could be transferred;

(2) The clearing of squatters from all approaches to the North Harbor, and

(3) The maintenance of peace and order in the Port Area by having police and fire boats patrolling the area.

The President was informed by the city executives that aside from solving traffic problems in Moriones and Zurbaran area, the proposed transfer of the Tutuban Station would be beneficial to the MRR because of the proximity of the site to all business sections of the city, including the Port Area. The city executives added that the construction of the link between Moriones and Zurbaran would offer a chance for the construction of a Tondo plaza.

It was also learned that some of the squatters in the approaches to the North Harbor would be resettled in the Tondo low-cost housing project.

The Chief Executive said he had no objections to the proposed improvements. He told the city executives to confer with Salvador Villa and Manuel P. Manahan, MRR general manager and commissioner of customs, respectively, regarding the feasibility of their plans.

During the breakfast, the President received a phone call from Rep. Salvador Encinas, who asked for relief for typhoon victims in Sorsogon. The President instructed SWA Administrator Amparo Villamor to rush 500 sacks of rice to Sorsogon.

The breakfast conference lasted from 8 to 9 a.m.

THE President this morning directed Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez to enplane for Davao in order to settle once and for all the land disputes in that area.

The President told Secretary Rodriguez to see to it that Davao settlers who have been tilling the lands, they have settled on be given priority in the acquisition of these lands and that officials of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources help in expediting the issuance of titles to the settlers.

In this particular case, the Chief Executive said, the Government's objective is "to give land to those who have been tilling the area they have already occupied." It was not, he added, "merely giving land to the landless because these people have already occupied lands, working on them and making improvements on them."

The presidential directive was issued immediately upon President Magsaysay's return to Malacañang from a three-day inspection trip to Davao, where he had observed the difficulties and the problems of the settlers in that region. In the course of his trip, the President had been informed that the settlers in some places were being thrown out of their farms because of legal technicalities.

Rodriguez was directed to stay in Davao for two weeks or longer if necessary. "You keep office in Davao and seek a final solution to the land disputes there," the President told the agriculture secretary.

The President received no regular callers this day. After meeting the Nampicuan, Nueva Ecija, delegation, the President received Sen. Decoroso Rosales, Samar Gov; Fernando Veloso, and Rep. Eladio Balite of Samar, who requested help for their province to rehabilitate it from the destruction of the recent typhoons.

Sen. Rosales said that rice crops and public works projects in the province had suffered great destruction. The President telephoned Agriculture Secretary Rodriguez and Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno to send enough seedlings and to release funds for reconstruction work, respectively. , PRESIDENT Magsaysay reiterated today to Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently secretary of foreign affairs, his desire for the speediest repatriation to Formosa of the 2,500 Chinese who have overstayed their visas to visit the Philippines. The President directed Garcia to press this case on the Chinese government.

The President said further he had heard that Chinese authorities were preparing to propose a formula regarding the disposition of the case of these over-stayed Chinese. The President said he stood firmly against any possible compromise on this matter. He asked Garcia to press for their repatriation.

THE President this evening inducted into office the regular members of the Consultative Council of Students at the Malacañang ceremonial hall. The new members of the CCS are Wenceslao Vinzons, Jr., Student Council Association of the Philippines; Godofredo Camacho, College Editors Guild; Alberto Javier, Jr., Conference Delegates Association of the Philippines; Luis Amado Lagdarneo, Student Catholic Action; Oscar Suarez Manalo, Inter-University Tagalog Literary Society; Fernando Laguna, University of the Philippines; Inocentes Dineros, University of Santo Tomas; Renaldo Balboa, Far Eastern University; Alma Belardo, Philippine Women's University; Victor de Castro, Arellano University; Horatio Brion, National University; Conception Tan, Centro Escolar University; Enrique Perez, San Beda College; Arturo Bernales, Philippine Law School; Tiburcio Tolentino, National Teachers College; and Deanna Pardo, Holy Ghost College.

Ignacio Debuque, chairman of the CCS who is now in Ceylon, was represented by Ifor Solidum, acting chairman.

In his extemporaneous remarks to the student leaders, the President told them to study some of the pressing problems of the country and asked them "to tell him their own thinking about these problems.

Solidum, who spoke for the group, informed the President that some 12 Filipino student leaders would be chosen as delegates of nine universities to go on a tour of Southeast Asian countries to talk on different aspects of Philippine life and culture. The expenses of these delegates will be borne by their respective universities. The President said that this was a step in the right direction.

The delegation also took up with the President the implementation of the plan to construct a national youth center. The President had earlier allotted some 2,400 square meters for the project at the old U. P. campus on Padre Faura, Ermita, Manila.

September 23.—DURING breakfast this morning Mariano Almeda, assistant to the NBI director, reported to the Chief Executive on developments in the murder cases which had been unearthed in the provinces of Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, and Cagayan.

The President had taken a direct hand in those cases when he directed Almeda to proceed to those provinces and look into them months ago. The President instructed Almeda "to protect the witnesses."

The President was informed by Almeda that most of the murder cases were already scheduled for trial in the courts of first instance in the respective provinces. Almeda added that most of the persons involved in the murder cases were in prison and awaiting trial.

Almeda asked for more assistants who could help him in prosecuting the suspects in five courts in these provinces. He said he will travel around these provinces when the trials are held. He pointed out that in Cagayan alone there were about 30 murder cases scheduled for trial.

The President, instructed Almeda to see Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason about his request. He congratulated Almeda for his patient and clever sleuthing.

After the breakfast which lasted from 8 to 9 a.m., the President worked on pending state papers.

September 24.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay left Malacañang at 5:15 this morning and motored to the Canlubang, Laguna, residence of former Speaker Yulo to greet the latter on his 62nd birthday.

Accompanied by his aide, Maj. Jose Estrella, the President arrived at Canlubang about 6:30 a.m. After greeting Mr. Yulo, the President joined the celebrant and members of his family in hearing mass at the chapel in the Yulo hacienda.

Following the mass, the President joined the Yulo family at a birthday breakfast. Immediately afterwards, the President motored back to Malacañang.

IN the afternoon, the President was presented with a resolution of the convention held by the Catanduanes Mayors League at Virac, Catanduanes, unqualified endorsing his re-election in the 1957 presidential polls.

Those who presented the resolution to the President were Gov. Juan M. Alberto of Catanduanes, Rep. Francisco A. Perfecto, Board Member Lino B. Agicate, and Provincial Board Secretary Miguel L. Chavez.

The resolution was signed by Mayor Primo Panti of Virac, president of the Catanduanes mayors league; Mayor Jorge B. Almojuela of Pandan, vice-president; and Mayors Amando Vergara of Bato, Amado Rojas of San Miguel, Alfredo Tanael of Baras, Filemon Tolledo of Gigmoto, Santiago Urgel of Panganiban, Pedro Aquino of Bagamanoc, Aristeo Arcilla of Calolbon, Juvenal Usero of Viga, and G. R. de la Rosa of Caramoran.

AT 5:15 p.m., President and Mrs. Magsaysay motored to the Chronicle Broadcasting Network (CBN) studios to launch formally the network.

The President delivered a speech which inaugurated the CBN over the system's station DZXL, "The Voice of the People," while the First Lady turned on the switch which started formally the operation of station DZQL, "Radio Reloj."

About 600 guests composed of top government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, and business and social elements attended the inauguration ceremonies.

The inauguration featured a presentation by the President of the Philippine Legion of Honor to William Winter, an American radio commentator who beamed his newscasts and commentaries to the Philippines during the Japanese occupation. Winter's inspired commentaries kept the morale of our people during the dark days of the occupation.

In his ten-minute speech over radio stations DZXL and DZQL in connection with the inauguration, the President underscored the "stern obligation" of the press and the radio to exercise the freedom of expression "not only to tell the truth, but to tell it in such a way as to bring about the greatest constructive result to the community."

The President said that a means of rapid and accurate communication among the people is a "prime essential in any democracy."

He added: "A democracy in order to function and be responsive to its citizenry must have the means whereby its citizens can be kept well informed of what goes on in the neighboring countries."

He said his administration will give every encouragement "to the press and radio" in an effort to help develop their facilities and maintain their freedom in the dissemination of information." (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 5474-5475, for the full text of the President's speech).

September 25.—IN a breakfast conference held at Malacañang this morning, President Magsaysay gave final instructions to the "task force" which will go to Davao to settle land conflicts he found during his three-day sojourn in that province. The President instructed members of the team to give prime consideration to the promotion of social justice.

Most important objectives of the team as outlined in the President's instructions are:

- (1) To facilitate and expedite titling of lands in order to prevent settlers from falling into the hands of unscrupulous middlemen who charge them exorbitant fees;
- (2) To make on-the-spot investigations to determine under what conditions lands have been settled; and
- (3) To select and pin-point public lands where settlers in titled lands could be transferred to in order to protect private property owners

The Chief Executive also stressed the importance of giving justice to everyone and at the same time told the “task force” members that they should be guided by the general principle, “lands for the tillers.”

The President was told by Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez, who was present during the breakfast, that he would go with the team and supervise its activities. The team will leave for Davao tomorrow.

Members of the “task force” present in this morning’s breakfast conference, which lasted from 8 to 9 a.m, were Vicente Tordesillas, assistant director of lands; Alejo Manalang, chief, land management division; Alejandro Recto, chief, law division of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Cesar Pangalangan, assistant, office of the secretary of agriculture and natural resources; and David Eusebio, chief, records division. Assistant Executive Secretary Enrique Quema and Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol were also present.

Earlier, the President received Karl Bendetsen, spokesman of the U. S. panel in the bases negotiation, who paid his respects to the Chief Executive. Bendetsen is leaving for the United States today. He was accompanied to Malacañang by Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay left Malacañang this morning to fulfill some outside engagement. He asked Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia to receive scheduled callers on his behalf.

A large delegation from Manila, headed jointly by Reps. Angel Castaño and Augusto Francisco, requested a site for a proposed cooperative to be organized in Tondo and the establishment of a puericulture center in Paco.

Some 200 farmers from eastern Pangasinan, headed by Mayor Delfin Romero of San Quintin, president of the province’s mayors league, sought the expropriation of a landed estate and its distribution to tenants. The group was accompanied by Rep. Justino Benito.

The Vice-President received callers from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Most of the visitors he received at the President’s study in Malacañang consisted of provincial delegations which sought assistance for the repair and reconstruction of blown-down school houses, bridges, municipal buildings, and other public buildings destroyed by typhoons.

Such delegations were those from Pinili and Currimao, Ilocos Norte headed by Mayors Apolinario Magdirila and Felix Boduan; from Mabalacat Pampanga, led by Gov. Rafael Lazalin; from Zamboanga del Norte accompanied by Gov. Romulo Garrovillo; from Camarines Norte, headed by Gov Esmeraldo Eco; and from Quezon, led jointly by Gov. Leon Guinto Sr., and Rep. Leon Guinto, Jr.

Among the last delegations was a group of Isabela mayors who requested pre-fabricated school houses for their respective towns. They were Mayors Rafael Gozum of Cabatuan, Patricio Ramos of Echague, Simeon Sebastian of Jones, Lorenzo Nitara of Aurora, Celedonio Magbaleta of Alicia, Pedro Beltran of Luna, Francisco Villanueva of Reina Mercedes, Tranquilino Dalupang of Cagayan, Marcelino Padilla of San Agustin, and Vice-Mayor Isidro Bayang of Santiago.

Earlier the Vice-President received several officials who called individually. The earlier callers included Sen. Quintin Paredes and Reps. Carlos Tan of Leyte and Ferdinand Marcos of Ilocos Norte. Juan Gomez, local manager of Northwest Airlines, also called to request a presidential message for the 30th anniversary celebration of the company next month.

SOME 30,000 students of the Far Eastern University and their guests heard President Magsaysay late in the afternoon suggest a decalog for the youth in meeting national problems.

The occasion was the presentation rally and induction of the FEU Central Student Organization officers and members held at the FEU quadrangle.

The President listed the ten virtues which he hoped the youth would possess; namely, the virtues of conscientious studiousness, scrupulous honesty and integrity, open-minded and scientific approach to public questions, a positive as against negative attitude, adjustability to economic vicissitudes, civic spirit, sound leadership, sober nationalism, friendly internationalism, and intense patriotism.

Speaking of leadership, the President said that the national leadership “is impotent unless it is supported by a series of secondary leaderships, forming a continuous chain of initiative reaching down to the very masses.” (See pp. 5475-5480, for the full text of the President’s speech.)

The President was applauded when he included Mrs. Magsaysay in the salutation of his speech. Mrs. Magsaysay was seated on the platform.

The President was accompanied by the First Lady to the FEU, arriving there at exactly 4: 55 p.m. The First Lady was wearing a black mestiza dress.

The President and the First Lady were greeted at the main entrance of the FEU on Morayta Street by FEU President Teodoro Evangelista and Angel Palarca, chairman of the board of trustees, who headed university officials, and Ronaldo S. Balboa, president of the FEUSCO, on behalf of the student body. Col. Cirilo Garcia, superintendent of ROTCs, and Lt. Col. Estanislao Baltazar, FEU ROTC commandant, were also present.

As the President was entering the university campus, he was greeted by a 21-gun salute given by the battery of the FEU ROTC. The way to the grandstand of the quadrangle was lined with students who shook hands with the President.

The President was given military honors by a contingent of the FEU Model ROTC. From there the President walked to the grandstand, and the program immediately started.

Ernie A. Angeles, member of the FEUCSO, introduced President Magsaysay.

The President’s speech began at 5:48 p.m. and lasted for 20 minutes, up to 6:08 p.m. From the FEU grounds the President and the First Lady motored directly to Malacañang. They were accompanied by Major Jose Estrella, presidential aide.

September 26.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning presided over a joint meeting of the Council of State and the National Security Council held at the conference room of Camp Murphy.

Ambassador Leon Ma. Guerrero first gave a briefing on the Suez Canal situation, lasting exactly 50 minutes, from 10 to 10:50 a.m. Afterwards, Col. Ismael D. Lapuz, G-2 chief, gave a briefing on the military aspect of the problem.

The Suez Canal briefing over, the members of the National Security Council withdrew from the conference room and the Council of State took up other urgent matters, principally the floating of additional bonds as authorized by existing laws.

Seated at the head table were President Magsaysay, Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently foreign affairs secretary, Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., and former President Sergio Osmeña. Ranged in U-formation were all the members of the Cabinet except:

Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez, who had flown to Davao to settle land disputes there, and other council members; namely, Senate Majority Floor Leader Cipriano Primicias and Senator Lorenzo M. Tañada. Except for Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff, all the rest of the military members of the National Security Council were seated behind the main conference table.

At the end of the U-form conference table was a lectern from which Ambassador Guerrero rendered his briefing. Later Col. Lapuz used the same lectern and, with the aid of maps and statistics on the wall, gave his views on the military aspects of the Suez Canal situation.

Immediately after the Lapuz briefing, the Council of State tackled the issuance of bonds to finance the construction of important projects concerning land resettlement, pre-fabricated school houses, air navigation, "operation dispersal," or distribution of work animals to poor farmers under certain conditions, Manila flood control, and construction of important national buildings.

The President created a coordinating committee on bond issue projects consisting of Sen. Gil J. Puyat, Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno, and Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona.

The President also approved the floating of bonds in the amount of P9,650,000 for the construction, improvement, and reconstruction of 21 airports, aside from those already mentioned.

The meeting of the Council of State and the National Security Council lasted three hours starting from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Before proceeding to Camp Murphy, President Magsaysay received at Malacañang former President Sergio Osmeña, who paid his respects. The President requested President Osmeña to accompany him to Camp Murphy. They both rode in the presidential car, leaving Malacañang at 9:45 a.m. They were accompanied by Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo and 1st Lt. Leopoldo Regis, presidential aides.

MALACAÑANG was awaiting this evening the report of Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno on his investigation of the questioned purchase by the NAWASA of pipes and other waterworks equipment from a firm in the United States.

Up to press time, the report was not yet ready, and it is expected to be submitted tomorrow morning.

A Malacañang spokesman said that President Magsaysay had ordered Moreno more than a month ago to look into the deal allegedly entered into between the NAWASA and an American firm. The spokesman added that the President had directed Moreno to turn in his report not later than this evening, but it was not yet available up to press time tonight.

The report would be made public upon its receipt, the spokesman added.

September 27.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today ordered Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez to cancel immediately a forest concession of 6,000 hectares in Surigao granted to the Mindanao Mahogany Corporation whose members include the President's relatives.

Although the concession was granted after a public bidding had been held, the President said that he has "always believed that the relatives of a public official should not have anything to do with governmental matters that tend directly or indirectly to cast suspicion that the public official lends his office, his power, and his prestige in securing favors for them."

The President recalled to the agriculture secretary that when he was defense secretary in 1950, he gave up 1,000 hectares of grazing land he had leased from the Bureau of Forestry, "much against my personal interest and the remonstrances of my family." He explained that he had to do this in order that the people might not think that he was taking advantage of his position.

The President said he "could have legally continued with the lease and raised more livestock for profit, but my sense of decency and my moral sensibilities pointed to me clearly the impropriety of continuing with my ranch while I

remained secretary of national defense.” This, he told Rodriguez, was his concept of what a public official should be and how he should conduct himself in office.

The President told Rodriguez, “Hereafter, your actuations on similar matters should be guided by this policy.”

The President had been informed of the acquisition of the forest concession by the Mindanao Mahogany Corporation only two nights ago by a nephew of his. The concession had been granted some three months ago.

The President, however, said that in justice to his relatives “who were in the lumber business before the war, they may continue operating their concession obtained before the war provided they observe all pertinent rules and regulations governing such activity.

THE President this day formed a committee to investigate the questioned acquisition of pipes by the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority (NAWASA).

The President took this action upon receipt late last night of the report of Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno, who had made a preliminary inquiry into the matter. The President said that the committee would base its investigation on the facts revealed by Moreno.

Composing the committee are Secretary Moreno himself as chairman and Judge Salvador V. Esguerra and Prof. Enrique Fernando as members. The committee was directed by the Chief Executive to work overtime if necessary so that it can finish its job soon.

President Magsaysay meanwhile told NAWASA General Manager Susano R. Negado to contact immediately the Overseas Exporting Company and request that if the contract with the NAWASA could not be rescinded, international standard specification pipes be delivered instead of the federal standard specification pipes in order to save the government P210,300 which is the difference in cost. The President was informed that although the federal standard specification pipes were slightly superior to the international specification pipes, the latter were also acceptable for the purpose for which they would be used in the NAWASA projects.

Moreno reported that according to the records of the case, “there was no direct instruction from the President to undertake this purchase and acquisition of pipes in the manner done recently.”

According to the records, the original authority from the office of the President confined itself to the purchase of \$296,100 worth of pipes and not more, which had been based on prices that were reasonable at the time. This authority was contained in the 4th and 5th indorsements signed by former Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro and Assistant Executive Secretary Mariano A. Yenke, Jr., dated March 5, 1955, and June 22, 1955, respectively, and also a letter of the latter of July 20, 1955.

These indorsements indicated that the purchase was going to be done through public bidding or through sealed quotations.

It was further revealed by Secretary Moreno that when the original quantity of these pipes was hiked more than three times, neither the President, the Cabinet, nor the Department of Public Works and Communications was informed of these negotiations.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning received Minister R. Tjokroadisumarto of Indonesia, who called to say goodbye prior to his return to his home country after serving more than three years of duty in the Philippines. Accompanied by Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez, the Indonesian minister informed the President that his successor would arrive next week.

A group of Indonesian police officers headed by Capt. Rudi Joewono, police commissioner of Bali, also called to say goodbye prior to their return to their country after undergoing training in the Philippines. Capt. Joewono,

thanked the President for the warm hospitality given them during their three months' training here in techniques of psychological warfare, scout rangers, and crime detection and investigation by the National Bureau of Investigation.

Richard W. Pockmire, vice-president and general manager of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, called to invite the President to be guest of honor at the inauguration of the new P12 million tire factory in Las Piñas, Rizal. Pockmire disclosed that the new factory which would be inaugurated on October 6 would employ at least 500 workers.

Dr. Josefina Ayuyao, chief of the infirmary of the University of the Philippines, requested that the P375,000 earmarked for the construction of an infirmary building be utilized instead to establish a hospital in the U. P. campus. Dr. Ayuyao was accompanied by Rep. Ricardo Y. Ladrado of Iloilo.

Former Vice-Mayor Norberto Bon, a political leader of Magallanes Sorsogon, called to pledge the loyalty and support of his followers. He was accompanied to Malacañang by Rep. Vicente L. Peralta and his brother, Timoteo Bon.

President Magsaysay followed a heavy schedule of callers this morning. He received visitors at his study from 9 a.m. to 12: 30 p.m.

Meanwhile, the President this noon issued a proclamation declaring Saturday, September 29, a special public holiday in Lanao and in the cities of Iligan and Marawi (formerly Dansalan) to enable the people of the province to attend the opening of an agricultural exposition which will be held in Iligan City.

Presidential callers this morning were made up mostly of provincial delegations which requested aid for their respective localities. The delegations- were those from Sta. Catalina and Lapog, Ilocos Sur, headed by Mayors Adriano Rabe and Honorio Padua; from Taguig, Rizal, led by Mayor Monico C. Tanyag; from Dinalupihan and Samal, Bataan, headed by Mayors Federico Muli and Romulo Albelda; from Pola and Bulalacao, Mindoro Oriental, led by Mayors Gregorio Olgado and Ricardo Bago; from San Pablo City, headed by Mayor Cipriano Colago; from Puerto Princesa with Mayor Donato Manga; from Isabela, accompanied by Rep. Samuel F. Reyes; from Cagayan, accompanied by Rep. Felipe Garduque; Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija, accompanied by Rep. Jose Corpuz; from Mangas, Iloilo, accompanied by Mayor Juanito Pendon; from Batanes, headed by Rep. Jorge A. Abad; and from Ilocos Norte, headed by Gov. Antonio Raquiza.

Individual callers included Sens. Quintin Paredes and Jose C. Zulueta; Reps. Manuel T. Cases of La Union, Paulino A. Alonzo of Cagayan, Floro S. Crisologo of Ilocos Sur, Jacobo Gonzales of Laguna, Conrado Morente of Mindoro Oriental, and Jose R. Nuguid of Bataan; Govs. Juan Alberto of Catanduanes, Antonio Raquiza of Ilocos Norte, and Delfin N. Montano of Cavite; former Governors Federico Castillo of Mindoro Occidental and Ciriaco Abad of Batanes; and Juan Gomez of Northwest Airlines, Vicente Albano Pacis, and Ramon Angeles.

MALACAÑANG formally announced today the abolition of 41 committees, commissions, councils, and boards that have been created by executive or administrative order.

Reasons for the abolition of the offices were that they have completed their work and performed the missions for which they had been specifically set up, abolished under the reorganization plan, or supplanted by other offices. While many of them have in fact gone out of existence at the completion of their missions, this was the first time Malacañang officially updated the status of these offices.

At the same time, Malacañang listed 36 offices of similar category as still functioning.

September 28.—THIS morning, President Magsaysay was presented with a P1,000-check as contribution of the personnel of the U.S. Sangley Point for the disaster victims of the last destructive typhoon *Gilda*.

The clerk was sent over to Malacañang by Capt. H. L. Miller, commanding officer of the naval base through Jerry Stone, yeoman third class, who personally presented it to the Chief Executive Stone accompanied by Lt. Cdr. Harry Glenn.

In a message sent along with the check to the President, Capt. Miller said: "Please accept our sincere sympathy for those who lost lives, homes, and property during the typhoon. We hope that this small contribution may give some comfort to those who have suffered misfortune."

EARLIER this morning, the President received Prince Peter of Greece, who called to pay his respects following his recent arrival in Manila-en route to Calcutta, India. Accompanied by Consul General George Lucas Adamson of Greece, Prince Peter's call lasted about 20 minutes.

Not feeling very well, the President received very few callers this morning. He spent most of the morning in his bedroom, following the advice of his physician to take a rest.

THE committee appointed by President Magsaysay to look into the NAWASA purchase of piping materials this afternoon met at the Malacañang Cabinet room and went over the pertinent records of the case.

The committee looked into why indorsements signed by Assistant Executive Secretary Mariano Yenko, Jr., on June 22, 1955, and by former Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro, on March 5, 1955, had been used to validate a second purchase of piping materials one year and four months afterwards.

The committee noted that former Public Works Secretary Vicente Orosa had written a letter to the Department of Foreign Affairs cancelling the award in favor of the Overseas Export Company. In an endorsement by Orosa of the first purchase, there had appeared-an implied commitment not to make a second purchase without bidding so that local suppliers could participate in the submission of quotations.

The receipt of the cancellation notice to the Overseas Export Company had been confirmed by Raul T. Leuterio, consul general to New York. It had also been verbally reported to Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno when he made a trip to the United States last July 9.

The committee saw records showing that the first purchase of \$296,100 was valid and the prices had been deemed reasonable at that time.

The committee, however, noted that in the second purchase neither the President, the public works secretary, nor the Cabinet had been informed.

The committee, chaired by Secretary Moreno, with Judge Salvador V. Esguerra and Prof. Enrique Fernando, met at the Cabinet room starting at 4:15 p.m. and lasted up to 7:15 p.m. Also present were NAWASA General Manager Susano R. Negado; Isidro Guevara, chief of the law division, BPW; Miguel Taña, chief supervising waterworks engineer; NAWASA; and Sixto Mendoza, chief, procurement and property division, NAWASA.

Secretary Moreno said this committee would meet again tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock at the Cabinet room to continue with the investigation of the case.

THE President this evening disapproved outright a resolution of the board of directors of the NAWASA authorizing the purchase from the C and C Construction Supply, without public bidding, of asbestos cement pressure pipes, 4" to 10". The deal would involve an amount of \$250,000. The NAWASA board said that the purchase was necessary because of the urgency of the need for the materials. According to Miguel D. Velasco, Malacañang financial assistant, if all the NAWASA board orders were supplied, they would amount to P1,354,752.

Earlier in the morning, President Magsaysay ordered the cancellation of all NAWASA contracts without public bidding.

September 29.—THE President called a special meeting of the Cabinet this day to act on the growing backlog of pending state papers. The Cabinet has not met for the last two weeks, because the fourth out-of-town Cabinet meeting scheduled last week in Digos, Davao, could not be held for failure of many of the secretaries to make the trip. The regular meeting of the Cabinet last Wednesday was likewise cancelled because the President presided over the joint meeting of the Council of State and the National Security Council in Camp Murphy that day.

Before presiding over the special meeting of the Cabinet today the President conferred with Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno, whom he had named chairman of a three-man committee to look into anomalous contracts entered into by the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority with several suppliers.

President Magsaysay at the special Cabinet meeting today signed an executive order approving the implementing details for Reorganization Plan No. 60 as it applies at public utilities regulation and land transportation, as recommended by the Government Survey and Reorganization Commission. The executive order creates the Public Utilities Commission and the Bureau of Land Transportation under the Department of Public Works, Transportation, and Communications.

The reorganization plan was presented to the Chief Executive by Budget Commissioner Dominador R. Aytona, chairman of the GSRC.

The Cabinet also:

(1) Approved the release of P960,000 to be charged against the balance of the appropriations under Executive Order No. 19-W for the construction, completion, repair, reconstruction, and improvement of provincial capitol, municipal buildings, and community halls, for the purchase of municipal hall sites, and for budgetary aid for the municipality of Manito, Albay. The release of the amount was approved after consultation with the deputy auditor general, the Malacañang financial assistant, and the budget commissioner.

(2) Created a committee to study the revision of existing rules and regulations regarding barter. The committee is composed of Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez as chairman, with Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, Budget Commissioner Aytona, NEC Executive Director Andres O. Hizon, and Central Bank Deputy Governor Andres V. Castillo, as members. It was stipulated that members of the business community be invited to voice their views on the proposed revision. If necessary, the committee will hold public hearings.

(3) Authorized the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation to purchase 100,000 bags of cement from the NAMARCO, which is importing the commodity from Japan. It was explained that the NAMARCO has an impending importation of 20,000 tons of cement from Japan.

The purchase was deemed urgent in view of the outstanding housing projects of the PHHC which very badly need cement.

President Magsaysay presided over the special Cabinet meeting which was held at the family dining room from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The executive order signed by the President provides for the appointment of six commissioners of the Public Utilities Commission—two for three-year terms, two for six-year terms, and two for nine-year terms. Under the commissioners will be an executive secretary assisted by staff aides. Under the executive secretary are the industrial inspection and meter laboratory' division, the statistics and records division, and finance and rate division.

Among the functions of the Public Utilities Commission are to enforce traffic and safety laws, rules, and regulations; to arrest violators and conduct them to, or require their appearance in, the proper court; to coordinate with local police forces, to provide maximum coverage without duplication of main-travelled highways, roads, and streets; and to assist field offices of the Bureau of Land Transportation in the enforcement of driver's license and motor vehicle registration requirements and regulation of motor vehicle public earners.

The Bureau of Land Transportation shall have a director and an assistant director. Under the office of the director, there will be an administrative division, statistics and records division, regulations division, and eight regional offices.

The functions, powers, duties, and responsibilities of this bureau shall include inspecting motor vehicle carriers for conformance with prescribed routes, schedules, rates, and loading limitations; inspecting the equipment of public motor vehicle carriers for mechanical adequacy; testing and sealing taximeters; registering motor vehicles; examining and licensing drivers; collecting fees in connection with said functions; promoting and developing motor vehicles and railroad service; and providing technical assistance to the Public Utilities Commission.

Under the reorganization plan, the Public Utilities Commission and the Bureau of Land Transportation will be under the Department of Public Works, Transportation, and Communications, the new name of the public works department.

Administrative acts to comply with the Plan shall be accomplished within 60 days from the date of the promulgation of the executive order making the Plan and the implementing details effective.

The Government Survey and Reorganization Commission recommended in its report that the secretary of public works, transportation, and communications take the following action:

- (1) Confer with the secretary of justice to arrange the orderly transfer of subordinate personnel and appropriations from the Public Service Commission to the Public Utilities Commission and to the Bureau of Land Transportation.
- (2) Confer with the secretary of commerce and industry to arrange the orderly transfer of subordinate personnel and appropriations from the Civil Aeronautics Board to the Public Utilities Commission.
- (3) Confer with the secretary of commerce to arrange the temporary transfer of the Civil Aeronautics Administration from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Public Works, Transportation, and Communications, pending implementation of the organization of the Bureau of Highways and Airports;
- (4) Call the first meeting of the Public Utilities Commission at which the commissioners shall elect their executive commissioner;
- (5) Collaborate with the local government and civil affairs office in the Office of the President in circularizing local governments and chartered cities concerning their responsibilities for enforcing traffic laws within their jurisdictions.

The GSRC also recommended that the secretary of justice circularize the lower courts concerning their exclusive responsibility for punishing motor vehicle code violators. It also recommended that the defense secretary take such steps as may be necessary for full assumption by the Philippine Constabulary of responsibility for enforcement of traffic laws outside local police jurisdictions.

IN the afternoon, the President motored to the San Lazaro Hospital chapel and visited the remains of Nurse Alicia Hechanova of the Bureau of Health, who had been killed in an ambush in Jolo last Thursday.

Upon arriving at the chapel, the President talked with Cpl. Nicanor Hechanova, brother of the deceased, consoled with him, and inquired about the needs of the family. The President then viewed the body of the deceased and afterwards talked again with the brother of the deceased.

The President expressed regret over the death of Miss Hechanova, who had been killed while in line of duty. He lauded the deceased as a public servant who was performing her duty when ambushed.

The Chief Executive directed that the Legion of Honor be granted posthumously to Miss Hechanova during the necrological services which will be given in her honor Monday morning at eight o'clock. The President then gave financial help to the family of the deceased from his own personal funds.

The President also directed that, if in order, government financial aid be given to the family of the deceased who had been the breadwinner of the family.

The President left Malacañang at about 12:45 p.m. immediately after the adjournment of the Cabinet meeting. He was accompanied by Health Secretary Paulino J. Garcia, Assistant Press Secretary Guillermo V. Sison, and Major Jose Estrella, presidential aide. The President returned to Malacañang past 1 p.m.

September 30.—EARLY this morning, the Chief Executive motored to the Nurses' Home chapel of the University of Santo Tomas, where he heard mass. He was the guest of the Business and Professional Women's Club.

On hand to greet the President was Florenda Barcenas, president of the club.

Present during the mass which lasted from 8 to 8:30 a.m. was Rep. Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur. The President asked Crisologo to represent him during the breakfast which followed the mass.

After the mass, the President returned to Malacañang where he worked on pending state papers. He was accompanied to the UST Nurses' Home chapel by Maj. Jose Estrella, presidential aide.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this afternoon said that it was high time the Philippine Government gave due recognition to those who have volunteered meritorious services in alleviating the sufferings of the people, performing their task with "missionary zeal."

The President formed a committee to study and make recommendations on the kind of recognition to be given to volunteer Red Cross workers. The committee will be chairmanned by Health Secretary Paulino J. Garcia, with former Mayor Valeriano E. Fugoso, former Justice Manuel Lim, and two others to be named later, as members.

The Chief Executive made this announcement in the course of his extemporaneous remarks after the induction of the officers and members of the Manila Red Cross Chapter board of directors and the officers of the district executive committees in Manila, at the Malacañang social hall.

In his brief remarks, President Magsaysay congratulated the volunteer Red Cross workers for "helping our suffering countrymen." He added that the satisfaction they would get from their volunteer work was "the satisfaction in your conscience that you have served our people."

The Chief Executive traced briefly the history of the humanitarian work of the Red Cross which has spread gradually throughout the world. He pointed out that the governments of some countries have already given due recognition to the meritorious services of their outstanding volunteer Red Cross workers.

At this point, the President said that so far the Philippine Government has not yet given due acknowledgement "to all your humanitarian work." He said, "It is high time that our Government should give due recognition to the work of the volunteer Red Cross workers who are performing their task with missionary zeal."

The President's remarks drew applause from the audience consisting mostly of officers and members of the Manila Red Cross Chapter board of directors, the officers of the district executive committees, and Red Cross workers.

Health Secretary Garcia, chairman of the Board of Governors of the Philippine National Red Cross, inducted the officers and members of the Manila Red Cross Chapter board of directors. Valeriano E. Fugoso, chairman of the Manila Red Cross Chapter, inducted the officers of the district executive committees.

In his brief remarks, Fugoso referred to President Magsaysay as the Number One Red Cross worker because of the services he has been rendering to the needy people, adding that the President has inspired the Red Cross workers in their activities. The ceremonies were broadcast by all radio stations.

Seated on the platform with the President were Secretary Garcia, Messrs. Fugoso and Bagatsing, Mons. Jovellanos, Messrs. Yao Shiong Shio, and Tomas Maceda.

The ceremony started at 4 p.m. and lasted up to about 4:20 p.m.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Month in Review: October 1-15, 1956

President's Month in Review: October 16-31, 1956

OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

October 16.—THIS morning, the President had breakfast with Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson, who reported on the city mayors' conference recently held in Tokyo, Japan. Lacson was accompanied to Malacañang by Vice-Mayor Jesus M. Roces.

After breakfast, the President, together with Mrs. Magsaysay, received visiting singer Joni James, who paid her respects. The President was presented by Miss James with tickets for her show. Miss James was accompanied by Tony Acquaviva, her manager; Arthur Schurgin, producer; and Felipe Monserrat and Ramon Caballero, owner and manager, respectively, of radio station DZMY.

Then the President received at the Cabinet room a delegation from Catbalogan, Samar, which requested funds for public works improvement and repair of damages wrought by the recent typhoon in their locality. Headed by Rep. Marciano Lim, the delegation included Mayor Esteban Pecson and Councilors Antonio Tuazon, Procopio Perez, Ruperto Alion, Antonio Marida, Gonzalo Villorin, and Gilberto Rosales.

After receiving the Catbalogan delegation, the President motored to the V. Luna General Hospital for dental treatment. He was accompanied by Lt. Leopoldo Regis, junior aide. President Magsaysay requested Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia to receive Malacañang callers.

VICE-PRESIDENT Garcia, on behalf of the President, received a large delegation composed of officers of the mayors' league of Nueva Ecija and other political leaders from that province who sought financial aid for their respective localities.

Accompanied by Acting Gov. Emilio Gudoco and Rep. Celestino Juan, the group included Mayors Nicetas Viesca, president of the mayors' league; Numeriano Villaroman of San Leonardo; and Emilio Morales of Gabaldon.

Another large delegation from Nueva Vizcaya accompanied by Rep. Leonardo Perez also requested help for their municipalities. This group included Mayors Castillo Tidang of Kayapa, president of the mayors' league; Silverio L. Pascua of Diffon, vice-president; Dionisio Sarandi of Madela, secretary; and Ramon Martinez of Bambang, Gregorio Divina of Aglipay, Gregorio Cansino of Aritao, and Bonifacio Carnate of Kasibu.

Some school officials from Bulacan, accompanied by Gov. Alejo Santos, protested against a projected amendment to a proclamation previously issued by the President reserving 200 hectares of land in San Ildefonso for the site of the national agricultural school. Gov. Santos explained that if the proposed amendment goes through, the school would be left with only about 50 hectares.

A group of farmers representing some 137 families in the Macalawat Settlement Project in Angadanan, Isabela, called to thank the President for having given them lands of their own. With Rufino Garcia as their spokesman, they informed the Vice-President that they expected to have their first harvest next month after barely one year of clearing and working on their lands.

Other delegations were those from Tumauni, Isabela, headed by Mayor Apolonio B. Ramiro, and from Unisan, Quezon, headed by Mayor Joaquin Carillo.

Among individual callers were Reps. Tobias Fornier of Antique, Serafin Salvador of Rizal, and Pedro Trono of Iloilo.

The Vice-President received callers at the Palace study room until 12:30 p.m.

October 17.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay and administration leaders approved today the text of Executive Order No. 208, creating an interim reparations committee.

The executive order will “provide for a provisional body or agency to receive the reparations goods and services from Japan.” The agency so constituted will replace the present provisional reparations committee composed of Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno, NEC Executive Director Andres O. Hizon, and Antonio P. Chanco.

Present at the Malacañang breakfast conference which approved the setting up of the interim agency were, besides the President, Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently foreign affairs secretary, Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Acting Speaker Daniel Z. Romualdez, Sens. Cipriano Primicias, Emmanuel Pelaez, and Jose P. Laurel, Rep. Arturo Tolentino, and Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma and Hizon. The conference lasted from 8:10 to 10 a.m.

AT the Cabinet meeting today, President Magsaysay revamped the Board of Liquidators by designating Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol as chairman to replace Filomeno Kintanar, who was made manager of the office.

The President said that in the future there should be less frequent meetings of the board unlike in the past when the board used to hold four regular meetings a week. Upon learning that Kintanar used to receive three meal allowances daily, the President ordered that this should be stopped.

The President also took steps to expedite the payment of backpay installments to government employees. Upon being informed that there was need of acquiring more IBM machines, the President directed Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez to lease the needed machines so that the installments could be issued soon.

The issuance of this year’s backpay installments has been delayed. Last year payments were made about the month of July.

Upon recommendation of Vice-President Garcia, the President and the Cabinet authorized the Philippine representation in the Colombo Plan meeting scheduled at Wellington, New Zealand, with the following delegations:

(1) For the preliminary working group meeting from November 5 to 17, 1956, Rep. Godofredo Ramos, as chairman, and Jose Fernandez, vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines for economic problems, and either Dr. Amado Clemente or Director Casimiro del Rosario for nuclear problems, with Col. F. M. Medina as adviser on the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Mrs. Ruben Ledesma will be the adviser on group study on Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

(2) For the ministerial meeting scheduled from December 4 to 8, 1956, Vice-President Garcia, chairman; and Counselor Octavio L. Maloles, member; Pedro C. Afable, secretary; and Col. F. M. Medina and Jose Fernandez, technical advisers.

The Cabinet approved the proposal of the interdepartmental committee on atomic energy that in the event Vice-President Garcia could not attend the conference, the secretary of health be designated to act as chairman of the delegation on the ministerial level.

The Cabinet approved the industrial loan of P8 million granted by the RFC in favor of the National Development Company for its ramie development project on a ten-year term of payment under the following conditions:

(1) Interest should be only four per cent, which the RFC gives for industrial loans; and

(2) No payment of interest or principal will be made during the first three-year period. Payment will be made yearly beginning after the third year.

The Cabinet also approved the designation of Dr. Eusebio Garcia as member of the Philippine delegation to the second session of the sub-committee on trade of the ECAFE scheduled in Tokyo, Japan, from October 29 to November 5, 1956.

President Magsaysay presided over the Cabinet meeting held at the family dining room from 10:30 a.m. to about 1 p.m.

During the course of the Cabinet meeting, Senate President Protempore Manuel C. Briones called on the President to pay his respects. Sen. Briones is leaving for abroad for medical treatment.

October 18.—THE President this morning told a big delegation of Manilans that it was “unfair to deprive the people of Manila of the services of Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson” in answer to their petition urging the appointment of the Manila mayor as chairman of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

The President met the large delegation at the reception hall of Malacañang and told them upon receiving the petition that the chairmanship of the commission was a time-consuming job. “I agree with you that Mayor Lacson is honest and competent, but it is unfair to deprive the people of Manila who elected him mayor of his services,” the President said.

Federico Blay of Manila and Batangas, who acted as spokesman of the delegation, handed to the President the petition signed by over 3,000 people from several provinces, including Pangasinan, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Rizal, Cavite, Pampanga, Batangas, Manila, Quezon City, and Pasay City.

The delegation, in its petition, said that Mayor Lacson was “an open-minded Nacionalista, who never had himself bound by party principles and loyalties whenever it is the public interest that is at stake.”

The President assured the delegation that the man he will select to head the commission “will be no less honest and competent than Mayor Lacson.” The delegation was headed by Blay, Melecio Malabanan, Leonardo Marquez, and Jose Regala.

The members of the National Housing Council also called on the President after they had been inducted into their posts by Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon. The NHC members and the President discussed the expansion of the government’s housing program. Members of the NHC were Home Financing Commission Chairman and General Manager Jose V. Andrada, chairman, and RFC Chairman Eduardo Romualdez, PHHC General Manager Vicente Orosa, NEC Executive Director Andres Hizon, and Board Director Eugenio Puyat of the National Planning Commission, members. Eugenio Puyat was represented by NPC Director of Planning Anselmo T. Alquinto.

During the call of the NHC members, the President was informed by PHHC General Manager Orosa that the government housing project in Tondo was being held up by the provisions of a law recently passed by Congress. Orosa said that the law provides for the sale of a part of the housing project lots to slum dwellers.

Rep. Angel Castaño, who was the author of the law and who was around during the conversation between the President and Orosa, said that the PHHC could go ahead with the Tondo housing project because the intention of the law was to help the slum dwellers. The President instructed Orosa to study the provisions of the law with Rep. Castaño and Solicitor General Ambrosio Padilla. Orosa said that everything else, including the money, was ready for the construction of the Tondo housing project.

Earlier, the President requested Assistant Executive Secretary Enrique C. Quema to receive the earliest callers. The President devoted the early part of the morning to pending important state papers.

Among the earliest callers were the members of the League of Women Voters of the Philippines. They requested that the period from November 19 to 24, 1956, be proclaimed as Voters’ Week. Secretary Quema said that he would inform the President about their request. Among those in the delegation were Dr. Maria Cid Peralta, 1st vice-

president; Mrs. Asisola Amoranto, 2nd vice-president; and Mrs. Leonora F. Pascual, Mrs. Louise Orendain, and Mrs. Paz Catolico.

Rep. Salvador Encinas of Sorsogon was also among the earliest callers. He requested a mercy plane to bring ex-Mayor Juan Granado of Bulan, who was seriously ill, to Manila.

When the President entered the study room about 10 a.m. to receive visitors, his first callers were the municipal officials of Bato, Camarines Sur, who were accompanied by retired Brig. Gen. Antonio Sayson and headed by Mayor Pio Mota. The bato town officials requested aid for their public works projects.

Among the other callers of the President who also requested aid for their various public works projects were Rep. Emilio Cortez and a large delegation from Pampanga; Rep. Enrique Corpus and provincial officials of Zambales; Bukidnon officials composed of Rep. Cesar Fortich, ex-Rep. Remedios Fortich, Provincial Board Members Ramon Onajon and Benjamin Lopez, Assistant Provincial Auditor Rosalino V. Garcia, and Assistant Provincial Treasurer Ramon Bitangcor; Sen. Jose C. Zulueta and his Iloilo delegation; Rep. Angel Castaño and some residents of Manila's first district; Vice-Mayor Benigno Naval and farmers from Mayantoc, Tarlac; and Reps. Justino Benito of Pangasinan, Cornelio Villareal of Capiz, Manuel Zosa of Cebu, Fernando Pajarillo of Camarines Norte, Gov. Delfin Montano of Cavite, and ex-Sen. Justiniano Montano.

Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon today administered the oath of office to the officials of the National Housing Council, at the music room in Malacañang. Secretary De Leon administered the oath on behalf of the President.

The National Housing Council was created by the President in Executive Order No. 148 for the purpose of advising him on housing matters.

Those who took their oath before Secretary De Leon follow. Commodore Jose V. Andrada; chairman-general manager of the Home Financing Commission, as chairman; Eduardo Z. Romualdez, chairman of the RFC; Vicente Orosa, general manager of the PHHC; Capt. Andres O. Hizon, executive director of the National Economic Council; and Anselmo T. Alquinto, director of planning of the National Planning Commission (in representation of NPC Board Director Eugenio J. Puyat, who is abroad), members.

In creating the National Housing Council, President Magsaysay underscored "the need of coordinating and integrating the various efforts of the various housing entities of the government towards the improvement of home building and slum clearance, not only in the cities but also in the small communities."

After the oath-taking, the President met the newly-inducted officials of the National Housing Council and took up preliminary matters about the nation's housing conditions today.

The President particularly talked to Chairman-General Manager Andrada of the HFC to "hurry up with housing projects all over the country."

October 19.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today was informed by A. F. Tegen, president of the General Public Utilities Corporation of New York, which is the mother company of the MERALCO, that the MERALCO was preparing to sell some of its shares to Filipinos.

Tegen called on the President, accompanied by MERALCO President W. R. Snyder and Vice-President H. B. Reyes. The MERALCO officials assured the President that the MERALCO would do everything to expand electric facilities in the area being served by the company to meet future demands so as to make maximum development possible of the area.

Tegen said that when the MERALCO needs additional funds for the needed expansion of its facilities, and possibly even before, for the purpose of paying off some of its indebtedness, it would offer some of its shares to Filipino investors.

The president of the G.P.U. said that the United States Congress had passed, and President Eisenhower had approved, a law which enabled G.P.U. to continue its ownership of the MERALCO. He thanked President Magsaysay and the Philippine Government for their help in responding to requests of the United States Government for expressions of opinion regarding the MERALCO's discharge of its responsibilities.

The MERALCO officials also informed the President that their company was planning to put nuclear power reactors here for generating electricity. Tegen said that considerable progress had been made already on the plan.

The officials said that as evidence of G.P.U. willingness to be of assistance to the Philippines, it was still willing to finance all the requirements of the MERALCO on the same terms and in accordance with the policies established by the Central Bank and other fiscal agencies of the government on new loan's or new investments in the Philippine economy.

THE President conferred with the MERALCO officials for about 15 minutes and then proceeded to the Malacañang music room, where he received the report of the Esguerra committee which recommended exoneration of the NAWASA board of directors of the charge that it was not zealous in protecting the interest of the government and that in opening the second letter of credit for \$452,000 the NAWASA suffered financial loss in the transaction with the Overseas Export Company.

Judge Salvador Esguerra, chairman, and Prof. Enrique M. Fernando and Lt. Col. Clemente Guerrero, members, said in their report that they were of the opinion that "although there was some irregularity attending the perfection of the contract between the Overseas Export Company and the Bureau of Public Works, the same irregularity cannot be attributed to the board of directors of the NAWASA." The committee said that the NAWASA did not suffer financial loss from the contract in question.

The committee also submitted to the President the charges filed by the NAWASA board of directors against NAWASA General Manager Susano R. Negado. The President said that he would study the charges of the NAWASA board of directors against Negado and that, if the charges so warranted, he would direct the same committee to investigate them.

The President also said that, as a result of the Esguerra committee report, Malacañang would send a communication to Public Works Director Julian Buendia for an explanation of the "irregularity attending the perfection of the contract." The committee said that when the BPW asked for authority to canvass quotation of prices for pipes, it already had price quotations in the office.

The committee told the President that the contract between the Bureau of Public Works and the Overseas Export Company of San Francisco, California, was a binding contract which was transferred to the NAWASA upon the establishment of the latter. Judge Esguerra explained that the NAWASA board of directors could not put the contract aside and call for new bids, otherwise the board would have been sued by the Overseas Export Company.

The Committee also pointed out that "had the contract with the Overseas Export Company not been fully consummated and the government entered into new contracts with other parties, the government would have spent more money in purchasing pipes from other sources than what it paid to the Overseas Export Company."

The report explained that the claim of the NAWASA board of directors that the government saved in purchasing federal specifications of pipes instead of international was more plausible. The board claimed that the difference in prices between international pipes, which were higher, and federal pipes was P7.50 per meter for 10-inch pipes, P4.30 per meter for eight-inch pipes, P2.94 per meter for six-inch pipes, and P1.84 per meter for four-inch pipes. The total government savings in the second purchase amounted to P250,400.

Other morning callers of the President included Rep. Vicente Peralta of Sorsogon and Dr. Almus O. Larsen and Dr. Juan C. Orendian.

THE President this day signed Proclamation No. 361, declaring December 1, 1956, as Credit Union Day.

The President proclaimed Credit Union Day so that “our people may appreciate the benefits derived from credit unions.” The Chief Executive also said that credit unions provide a means whereby people may pool their savings and mutually assist each other in filling their need for useful credit at a low cost.

The President pointed out that credit unions combat usury and encourage thrift and regular savings and that they “not only promote the economic security of their members but also strengthen democracy and encourage individual responsibility.”

October 20.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today took a hand to help in the solution of the reported controversy between the sugar planters of Talisay and Silay, Negros Occidental, on one hand and the milling company in that locality on the other.

The planters reportedly stopped milling in protest against the production by the Talisay-Silay milling company of allegedly low-grade sugar.

The Chief Executive, in a breakfast conference with the Talisay-Silay sugar planters this morning, endorsed the case to Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, who was present at the conference, with a view to exploring ways and means of settling the controversy reportedly involving P10,000,000 and affecting 30,000 workers.

Tuason, who is also the chairman of the board of directors of the Philippine National Bank, said he will confer with the sugar planters either in his office or at the Philippine National Bank building sometime this morning.

Headed by Trino Montinola, president of the Talisay-Silay sugar planters association, the sugar planters present at this morning’s conference were ex-Sen. Pedro Hernaez, Ramon Nolan, Nicolas Ledesma, Fernando Cuenca, Rodolfo Lizares, and Eduardo Clarapols. Also present during the breakfast which lasted from 8 to 9 a.m. was Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon.

The President this morning told about 200 members of the Academic Supervisors’ Association that the mental attitude of students toward vocational courses and laboring men should be changed.

“Let us reorient our students and impart to them that our farmers and laborers are the most important people,” the President told the academic supervisors who attended a one-week conference conducted by the Bureau of Public Schools. The seminar was devoted to the study of how fundamental school subjects could click with the rural development program of the government.

The Chief Executive also urged the supervisors to update teaching procedures in vocational courses. He said that emphasis should be given to the importance of vocational education. He decried the fact that more Filipinos were inclined to white-collar jobs rather than to vocational ones.

The President was informed by Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., that the public schools division of Albay had already started making abaca slippers for sale. Hernandez also said that garlic was being planted by the public schools division of Batanes.

Before parting with the President, the academic supervisors presented him with two resolutions, pledging their cooperation and requesting the full implementation of Republic Act No. 842, providing for salary increases to teachers and supervisors. The Chief Executive told the supervisors that Secretary Hernandez and Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona were looking for ways and means to raise the amount of P8 million needed to fully implement the law.

The supervisors thanked the President for the extension of the services of Public Schools Director Venancio Trinidad, who was due for retirement, until December of this year.

The supervisors also assured the President that they would carry out his ideas concerning vocational education. Casimiro del Rosario, president of the Academic Supervisors' Association, and Isabelo Tupaz, chief of the instruction division of the Bureau of Public Schools and chairman of the work conference, led the supervisors. Others who were present on the occasion were Director Trinidad, National Language Institute Director Jose Villa Panganiban, and Public Schools Assistant Director Benigno Aldana.

After his talk with the supervisors, the President received Rep. Jacobo Gonzales of Laguna and Gov. Alejo Santos of Bulacan.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay flew to Tacloban City this noon, where he addressed a gathering on the occasion of the twelfth anniversary of the landing of the American liberation forces in the Philippines in Leyte.

It was the second time the President flew to Leyte in two consecutive years for the same occasion.

President Magsaysay and his guests took off on his plane *Pagasa* at 12:30 o'clock this afternoon and landed at the Tacloban City airport at 2:45 p.m.

The President was accompanied by Reps. Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo, Carlos Tan of Leyte, and Lorenzo Teves of Negros Oriental, RFC Chairman Eduardo Romualdez, George Aurel, economic attache of the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines, Press Secretary J. V. Cruz, Appointments Secretary Marcelino Calinawan, Jr., and newsmen.

Aurel represented Ambassador Albert F. Nufer, who could not make the trip. Aurel, it was learned, was among the liberation forces which landed in Leyte 12 years ago.

President Magsaysay was welcomed at the airport by a big crowd headed by acting Speaker Daniel Z. Romualdez and Gov. Bernardo Torres of Leyte.

From the airport, the President proceeded to the Mondejar Press, owned by Manuel P. Mondejar, a newspaperman, which he inaugurated. It is believed to be the biggest printing press in the province.

From the Mondejar press, the President motored to the provincial capitol building, where he presided over a "gripe session" before national and provincial and municipal officials.

Later, he watched a long civic and military parade from a ceremonial grandstand in front of the capitol. After the parade, the President awarded the Legion of Honor to Valeriano Abello for having allegedly aided the liberation forces by contacting them through semaphore signals.

Abello, it was learned, was a scout master before the war, and took advantage of his knowledge of semaphore signals in aiding the American liberation forces.

After reading his prepared speech, the President motored to the Cabaña Beach, where a merienda was served by the Tacloban Lions Club. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 6131–6133, for the full text of the President's speech.)

The President left the Cabaña Beach at 6:30 p.m. He and his party boarded the *Pagasa*, which took off from the Tacloban City airport at 6:45 p.m. and landed at Nichols Air Base at 9:05 p.m.

The presidential plane was able to take off despite the darkness, as the Civil Aeronautics Administration prepared improved guide lights for outgoing planes.

October 21.—MALACANANG this morning ordered a search for a motorboat with 11 crew members which was reported missing for three days now off the eastern coast of Samar.

A report received at Malacañang this morning revealed that the motorboat (name omitted) sailed from Oras, Samar, last October 18, for Borongan, also a coastal town of Samar. It was towing *twobatels*.

The informant, Mayor Rosales of Borongan, said in his telegram he feared that the motorboat must have developed engine trouble and drifted away from the coast. The report added that a barge had already been dispatched to locate the boat, but it returned after a day of futile search.

The President's aides, after receiving the report, immediately notified the Civil Aeronautics Administration rescue coordinating center with instructions to coordinate its activities with the Air Force and the Navy.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today spent most of his time working on state papers. After breakfast with his family, he closeted himself in his room, where he worked on state papers.

IN the afternoon, the President conferred with Press Secretary J. V. Cruz. Afterward Secretary Cruz issued the following statement:

"Sen. Puyat is completely misinformed when he charges that a Cabinet policy on the allocation of dollars for the raw material requirements of local industries will ruin such industries.

"The Cabinet policy, adopted last August 1, suggested to the Central Bank that no dollars be made available for new industries which will then require dollars for raw materials to the extent of more than 40 per cent of their total raw material requirements.

"The Cabinet was impelled to adopt this policy by sound considerations. It felt that further expansion of these so-called 'packaging' industries or assembly plants should not be encouraged, and that new industries should look to local sources for a major portion of their raw material requirements. There can hardly be any quarrel over the fact that the more desirable type of industrialization is that which employs and uses domestic resources and raw materials.

"The Cabinet policy further found support in the fact that some of the finished products of these 'packaging' industries or assembly plants were selling at higher prices than similar commodities directly imported from abroad. This, despite the fact that the 'packing' industries or assembly plants enjoyed tax exemption as 'new and necessary' industries, or their imported 'raw materials' were taxed less than if they were brought in the finished form.

"Finally, the Cabinet resolution was motivated by its desire to help the Central Bank in its effort to reduce dollar commitments to uses absolutely unavoidable and beneficial to the economy.

"The Central Bank accepted the Cabinet suggestion because of these sound considerations. The Monetary Board *never applied the policy retroactively, however*. In other words, industries which were already established or were authorized to be established at the time the Cabinet resolution was adopted were and are allowed to continue receiving their dollar allocations for materials even if such raw materials constituted more than 40 per cent of their total requirements. Thus, no reduction of allocations for raw materials of established industries has ever been made as a result of the Cabinet resolution.

"It must be noted, in fact, that the prohibition refers to dollar allocations for machinery for new industries, and not to dollars for raw materials. New industries which do not obtain their dollars from the Central Bank for the purchase of machinery may be given dollars for raw materials even if they import more than 40 per cent of their total raw material requirements. They do not come under the purview of the Cabinet resolution.

"This is how the policy is being applied by the Central Bank, and how the Cabinet had meant it to be applied. In a press release last August 8, only a week after the Cabinet had approved and announced its resolution, Malacañang in fact clarified and reiterated that the policy was to be applied prospectively not retroactively. In view of all this, it is

regrettable that Sen. Puyat made his charges that the Cabinet policy would 'torpedo' established industries and amounted to virtual 'sabotage' of the industrialization program."

October 22.—THIS morning, President Magsaysay had breakfast with Cebu's top officials, including City Mayor Sergio Osmeña, Jr., Gov. Jose Briones, and Board Members Francisco Remotigue and Celestino Paulin.

Discussed at the breakfast were the following: (1) public works improvements in Cebu; and (2) the feasibility of constructing a bridge which would link two Cebu towns, Opon and Mactan Island and Mandawe on the mainland.

The President, at the breakfast, also received from Mayor Osmeña petitions from the Cebu City council and the Cebu Lions Club, endorsing the construction of an alternate international airport in Mactan.

Also present at the breakfast which lasted from 8 to 9 a.m. were Basilio Macrohon, provincial treasurer; F. Otadoy, mayor of Camotes; Ramon Binamira, presidential assistant on community development; Sotero Cabahug, Jr.; and F. de los Santos.

The Chief Executive wished Mayor Osmeña bon voyage. Mayor Osmeña is leaving for abroad this week.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning received the commanding officers of the SEATO fleet which just concluded "Operation Albatross."

The commanding officers of the six-nation fleet arrived at Malacañang about 10 a.m., accompanied by the ambassadors of SEATO member-nations, and talked with the President for about 25 minutes.

The President was informed by the officers of the success of the war games which started in the Indian Ocean off Australia and moved on to Sulu Sea and all along the way to Manila. Rear Admiral D. H. Harries of Australia was the overall commander of the fleet.

Accompanied by Ambassadors Albert F. Nufer of the United States, George L. Clutton of Great Britain, Keith Charles Owen Shann of Australia, and Minister Choudri Khaliquzzaman of Pakistan, the officers who paid a courtesy call on the President were Rear Admiral Harries, LCdr. V. W. Were of New Zealand, Commodore M. A. Alavi of Pakistan, LCdr. Dioscoro Papa of the Philippines, Cdr. H. P. Westmacott of Great Britain, and Capt. N. J. Gallagher of the United States.

AFTER receiving the SEATO commanding officers, the President retired to his bedroom where he worked on pending state papers. He requested Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia to receive the presidential callers.

Vice-President Garcia assured a delegation from San Miguel, Bulacan, of government help. The delegation, headed by Dr. Cesar Bernabe, requested that the government purchase a residential land in barrio Sibul so that the present occupants could buy it from the government. The Vice-President referred the matter to Land Tenure Administrator Manuel Castañeda.

Another delegation from Lipa City also requested the purchase by the government of a residential lot from a private owner. Godofredo Latay, head of the delegation, told the Vice-President that the occupants of the lot were willing to buy the land from the government.

Mrs. Juana de Vera of Batangas, president of the local Girl Scouts' council, headed a delegation which requested funds for the construction of a puericulture center.

The Vice-President also received municipal officials of La Union who requested aid for the repair of public school buildings. Gov. Bernardo Gapuz accompanied the La Union town officials.

Vice-Mayor Isidro Guevarra of Quezon City accompanied several residents of Bago Bantay who requested help for the installation of electric light facilities and a waterworks system in their locality.

Several of the callers were private citizens who sought government help for various problems. The last callers were a group of farmers from Hacienda San Jose, Floridablanca, Pampanga, who complained that Assistant Provincial Fiscal Carlos L. Sundiam of Pampanga “forcibly destroyed an earthen dike across our irrigation canals,” diverting the water from its course that, “instead it flowed freely into the lands of Fiscal Sundiam’s father-in-law.”

The farmers also complained against the acts of Pampanga District Engineer Catalino L. Guillermo. The farmers said that they had filed criminal and administrative cases against Sundiam and the cases were pending in the hands of a special investigator designated by the Department of Justice. The Vice-President wrote a note to Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, requesting him to order the immediate investigation of the farmers’ complaint. The farmers were headed by Anastacio Morales and V. M. Ruiz.

THE President today asked Secretary of Justice Pedro Tuason to look into Judge Guillermo Guevarra’s charge that a case he had investigated, allegedly involving four “big fishes,” had been ignored by a government fiscal when it was submitted to the fiscal for prosecution.

The President asked Tuason to find out: (1) Who these four “big fishes are; (2) What they are allegedly guilty of; (3) Who the fiscal is to whom Guevarra reportedly had submitted the case; (4) Whether this fiscal really “ignored” Judge Guevarra’s investigation; and (5) If so, why.

The President asked Tuason to submit to him the findings on this matter as soon as possible.

October 23.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning received from Senator Gil Puyat an advance copy of the National Economic Council’s five-year economic and social program. The copy was handed to the Chief Executive at a breakfast conference he had with Puyat at Malacañang.

Puyat said the program updates the economic program which President Magsaysay launched in 1954. It was based on studies and statistics of the NEC and the Central Bank.

The President thanked Puyat and the NEC for the work done on the program and said he would study it as soon as possible.

The salient features of this program are as follows:

1. The present draft of the Economic and Social Development Program for five years, 1957–1961, has for its major objectives:

(a) The attainment of a rate of economic growth that will lead to the creation of new job opportunities sufficient to absorb the 200,000 of our people who every year reach the age at which they can be gainfully employed, and a gradually increasing portion of the present reservoir of idle manpower;

(b) Elevate the standard of living of the masses of our people through progressive increases in production and real income and improvement of general social and cultural conditions.

2. The attainment of these objectives are to be effected through the institution and wise administration of monetary, credit, fiscal, commercial, and social policies and the increased and more effective participation by the government in economic and social activities designed to encourage the healthy and vigorous growth of private enterprise.

3. To enable the government to perform its proposed function, the program sets targets of accomplishment and levels of government investment necessary to achieve these targets during the program period.

4. To encourage private enterprise to more effectively participate in progressive economic growth, the program suggests a coordinated set of policies to be implemented to enable private entrepreneurs to plan their activities in advance, and thus assure the country of an orderly growth of our productive structure.

5. Conscious of the fact that the government cannot and should not exercise direct control over private economic activity, the program does not impose targets for accomplishment by private enterprise but merely suggests levels and areas of investment and production that private enterprise might find desirable to undertake and which, if undertaken, would result in achievement of the overall objectives.

6. Two features of the program are the Five-Year Fiscal Budget prepared in collaboration with the Budget Commission and the Five-Year Exchange Budget prepared with the active participation of the Central Bank. The first will assure that the government will be able to do its part in economic development without inflation. The second, in conjunction with the NEC Priority Formula, which also forms part of the program, will give concrete expression to the recommended policies for maximizing the growth of private enterprise. These three tools will enable the application of all such economic policies, including tax exemption and credit extension among others, to be placed on a rational and non-discriminatory basis.

7. The program is therefore, thoroughly realistic, non-inflationary, and the goals it sets are well within the capacity of the people to reach. It is also a flexible program designed for revision every year as circumstances may justify. It sets a norm of economic behavior for the government that will evoke the maximum participation of private capital and lead to more balanced growth, more jobs, and a better end-product of consumption and well being for the people of this country.

PRESS Secretary J. V. Cruz, meantime, issued the following statement:

Had Senator Puyat bothered to read my statement, he would have discovered that there was no reference in it to “beauty parlor” industries, and he would not thus have wasted his time asserting that he would not waste his time commenting on “such kindergarten and undignified language which certainly is not befitting the dignity of Malacañang.”

THE President this morning ordered the new backpay chief, Gregorio B Fider, to get rid within 30 days of the swarms of backpay “fixers” and 20-percenters hanging around the premises of the finance department.

At the same time, the President instructed Fider to “streamline” the processing of backpay applications so that claimants will get paid speedily without having to utilize fixers.

The President promised he would support Fider “to the limit” in his task of “making another GSIS” of the Treasury’s backpay unit. He told Fider to fire officials found to be incompetent or dishonest.

Fider said he needed both the moral support of the President as well as material assistance, such as salary adjustments for some of his personnel, especially the IBM machine operators who, despite their technical training, are still drawing minimum wages.

The backpay head was summoned today by President Magsaysay to a private conference in Malacañang at which Fider briefed the President on the problems faced by his office in expediting payments to the thousands of claimants. Fider took over the office one month ago from Ubaldo Carbonell, assistant national treasurer.

Fider was accompanied to the President by Oscar V. Trinidad, Malacañang technical assistant, who earlier had reported to the President that people in the provinces were complaining about undue delay and difficulty in payment of backpay.

Fider informed the President that he had come across some evidence of racketeering. He expressed confidence, however, that he could clean up the backpay grafters by making it no longer profitable for fixers to follow up claims.

He said his office was greatly handicapped by antiquated methods and by the existence of a big backlog of unacted papers, as well as inaccurate records of backpay balances. He disclosed that the fifth 10 per cent partial redemption, which President Magsaysay recently ordered paid, would take his office some 200 to 300 working days, or nearly a year, to process and pay, because of the inaccuracy and incompleteness of records.

Fider said papers covering some 1,500,000 transactions were merely “piled” and were not systematically arranged or filed for easy location in case of need to consult these records in future redemptions and for auditing purposes. These papers include those covering previous partial redemptions and duly processed certificates of indebtedness.

Unless drastic methods are adopted to systematize these records, future redemptions will take a very long time and the backlog will keep on growing, Fider said. He warned that, as long as there is a backlog, there will always be temptation to engage in racketeering.

Aside from the 1,500,000 “piled” documents, there are 20,000 original applications for which no acknowledgment certificates had been issued. Additionally, the backpay unit is expecting from the Armed Forces finance service about 50,000 more AFP backpay applications, including new applications for which no certificates had been issued, restoration of deducted amounts, and extension of period of entitlement to backpay.

Fider also said that, since 1949, some 148,000 applications for certificates of indebtedness in payment of taxes and other obligations to the government have remained unacted on and are gathering dust in the backpay unit.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning motored to the AFP headquarters in Camp Murphy, Quezon City, and dropped in at the annual staff conference where all major commands were participating to reassess overall military problems such as personnel, intelligence, operations, training, and logistics.

In his brief remarks before the large gathering of top ranking Armed Forces officers, including commanders of military areas, the President emphasized that the mission of the Administration was to help the masses of the people. He exhorted the conferees to continue implementing this important government policy.

Arriving at Camp Murphy about 10:30 a.m., the President was escorted to the conference room by Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao and Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff. After delivering a short talk, he was briefed by Gen. Vargas on the general peace-and-order situation in the country as gleaned from reports of the various area commanders attending the conference.

Then a bull session followed where some problems of area and provincial commanders were brought to the President’s attention and effective solutions to the problems discussed. Gen. Vargas informed the President that the conference which started yesterday would terminate this afternoon.

The Chief Executive returned to Malacañang shortly after 12 noon.

October 24.—ALTHOUGH he did not intend to receive callers this morning, the President received Manuel J. Gonzalez, general manager of the National Marketing Corporation (NAMARCO).

Gonzalez had been trying to see the President since yesterday morning after the Senate Committee on Commerce and Industry virtually cleared him of responsibility for the rescinded \$12 million NAMARCO contract with the Ohrbach, May, and Company.

During his brief conference with the President, Gonzalez handed in his letter of resignation from all his government positions, as, he said, he could not attend to the work on a full-time basis owing to his private business.

After his brief conference with “Dindo,” as Gonzalez is popularly known, the President motored to the Independence Memorial Grandstand on the Luneta, where he spoke as the guest of honor of the 1956 UN Flag Day ceremony.

The President was received with military honors upon his arrival at 8 o'clock in the morning.

He also awarded the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea (PEFTOK) units with distinguished presidential citations and pinned the Philippine Legion of Honor medal to Mrs. Anastacio R. Teodoro, mother of the late Jorge Teodoro, UN information officer, who was killed while covering the Korean War in 1951.

In his speech the President cited the role of the United Nations in insuring the security of the Philippines and other small nations against external aggression.

"Not only our existence as a nation, but also the realization of our moral right to equal status with other nations, regardless of size, depends upon the achievement of a world ruled by law and not by force," the President said.

He explained that were it not for the United Nations, the Philippines and other small nations would have very little hope of survival as free countries. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 6133-6136, for the text of the President's speech.)

AFTER delivering his speech, the President motored back to Malacañang. He was accompanied by his senior military aide, Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo of the Air Force.

At the Cabinet meeting today President Magsaysay directed Judge Salvador Esguerra to investigate the charges filed by the NAWASA board of directors against NAWASA General Manager Susano R. Negado.

Judge Esguerra, who is chairman of the committee to investigate the charges, summoned Negado and the members of the NAWASA board of directors to appear before the committee at 9 a.m. tomorrow at the Cabinet room for a pre-investigation conference. Esguerra said that this conference would determine which matters would be agreed upon by both sides and what items would be disputed in order to limit the investigation to specific points of controversy. He said that this conference would simplify the proceedings at the forthcoming investigation.

Negado had been charged by the NAWASA board of directors with:

- (1) Alleged unauthorized purchase of cast iron pipes from the Manila Sheet Metal Company, Domingo S. Jose, and C. A. Roxas Co.;
- (2) Recommending his own promotion in salary from P20,000 to P24,000 per annum;
- (3) Luxuriously furnishing his office by buying equipment without authority from the board;
- (4) Employing personnel without the corresponding appointments from the board;
- (5) Failure to perform urgent duties for the improvement of the water services in Manila and suburbs;
- (6) Failure to present on time important matters to the board of directors of the NAWASA, such as the second P10 million projects for the former Metropolitan Water District and the budgets of the different waterworks systems; and
- (7) The unnecessary delay in the submission of the results of public bidding for supplies, materials, and equipment needed by the NAWASA to the board of directors for approval, thus causing unnecessary additional expenses to the NAWASA because of some technicalities resulting in the award of the contract to the second or third lowest bidder instead of to the first lowest bidder whose option expired.

Aside from Judge Esguerra as chairman, other members of the investigating committee are Prof. Enrique M. Fernando and Lt. Col. Clemente Guerrero.

President Magsaysay presided over the Cabinet meeting which started about 10:30 a.m. and lasted up to about 1 p.m. The meeting was held at the family dining room.

On recommendation of Health Secretary Paulino J. Garcia, the President and the Cabinet approved the sending of a group of deans of Philippine private medical schools to make study tour in the United States in order to stimulate improvements in the medical education and training in private medical schools in the Philippines.

Secretary Garcia said the sending of these physicians was a joint project of the Department of Health and the Department of Education. He said that according to studies made by a "deans committee" and by WHO expert, medical education and training in private schools were admittedly susceptible to many improvements consistent with technological advances in world medicine. Garcia added that improvements to be introduced in the medical curricula would prove beneficial to the country.

The members of the study tour who are making the observations under the sponsorship of the ICA-NEC overseas training program are: Dr. Virgilio Ramos, dean, UST College of Medicine; Dr. Lauro Panganiban, dean, FEU Institute of Medicine; Dr. Florida Velasquez, assistant dean, MCU College of Medicine; a representative from the Department of Education; and a representative from the Board of Medical Examiners.

Secretary Garcia said that Dr. Agerico B. M. Sison, dean of the U. P. College of Medicine, had been originally included in the group but had already gone ahead to the United States under a Rockefeller grant.

In order to help the farmers increase their rice production, the President and the Cabinet approved the release of P5 million worth of treasury notes for the implementation of the fertilizer law. This sum will be released to the Agriculture Credit and Cooperative Financing Administration, which will take care of implementing the law on fertilizer.

Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona informed the President and the Cabinet that on October 10, 1956, the Central Bank had sold P5 million worth of treasury notes for the Filipino retailers' fund. He said that since this amount would no longer be needed, as a similar amount of P5 million had previously been released from the general fund for the Filipino retailers' fund, he recommend that P5 million worth of treasury notes be released to the ACCFA.

On recommendation of Ramon P. Binamira, presidential assistant on community development, the President and the Cabinet approved the sending of an 11-man group on a study tour to India and Pakistan to observe the Indian program for community development and study methods of coordination and integration at national and other levels.

The group will also study Indian training methods for community development workers on village, block, and other administrative levels and will observe the implementation of the Indian program and note the operation and organization of community development projects.

The tour which starts on November 15 and ends December 13, 1956, is sponsored jointly by the United Nations and the U.S. International Cooperation Administration.

The study tour is composed of Govs. Conrado F. Estrella of Pangasinan, Juan Pajo of Bohol, Alejo Santos of Bulacan, and Alejandro Almendras of Davao; Rep. Godofredo Ramos; Dr. Amadeo Cruz, chief of the rural health units; or Dr. Augusto Uiyengco of the same bureau; Dr. Jose Vergara of the Social Welfare Administration; Director Cayetano Pineda of the Bureau of Agricultural Extension; Antonio A. Perpetua, PACD training officer; Luis Ladonga, PACD staff, and Domiciano de Jesus, PACD staff.

During the Cabinet meeting, the President designated Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol as acting secretary of national defense, the designation to continue only during the absence of Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, who is leaving with Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia for South Vietnam tomorrow to attend the first anniversary of the Republic of Free Vietnam and the proclamation of its constitution.

The Cabinet also:

- (1) Authorized the trip to Japan of Miss D. Castro, knitting supervisor of the NDC home industries department, for a period of two weeks for knitting training and observation of home industries;
- (2) Designated Oscar M. de Leon as adviser to the Philippine delegation in the ECAFE sub-committee on trade meeting scheduled to be held in Tokyo, Japan, from October 29 to November 5, 1936, without expense on the part of the government; and
- (3) Authorized Dr. Herminio Velarde of the Advisory Safety Council, Department of Labor, to attend as a member of the Philippine delegation to the Asian conference of occupational health, scheduled in Tokyo from October 20 to November 1, 1956, without expenses to the government.

The Cabinet approved the issuance of a proclamation, reserving the former site of the Bureau of Commerce and the Manila Trading Center in Sta. Cruz, Manila, with an area of 1,512 square meters, in favor of the GSIS. The proclamation will provide that the GSIS would finance the construction of the proposed Bureau of Commerce building and will handle its administration. After the GSIS shall have recovered its investment, the property, including the land and building, shall be turned over to the Bureau of Commerce.

Immediately before the holding of the Cabinet meeting, the President approved the allocation of a lot of about 1,000 square meters on Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, to the Knights of Rizal, on which to erect a building to be used as headquarters of the organization and also as offices of the Jose Rizal National Centennial Commission.

The President gave his approval after meeting with a three-man delegation composed of Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., chairman of the Jose Rizal National Centennial Commission, and H. B. Reyes and V. Lontok of the Knights of Rizal, who saw the President on the matter.

October 25.—THE President accepted today the resignation of Manuel J. Gonzalez as general manager of the NAMARCO but declined his offer to quit as board chairman of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

The NAMARCO resignation, which Gonzalez had pressed on the ground that he wanted to return to active management of his private company, will be effective upon assumption to office of his successor.

The President urged Dindo to stay on with the Sweepstakes office “to insure the continuity of the policies and operational guidance which have brought about steady increases in the volume of sales of Sweepstakes tickets.”

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today directed Assistant Executive Secretary Enrique C. Quema to investigate Dionisio Relloso, assistant chief of the general affairs division, for alleged serious misconduct.

According to a preliminary investigation conducted by the PCAC on the case, it was revealed that Relloso had allegedly attempted to carry out improper designs on a woman who had approached him for help to be employed.

This morning, President Magsaysay received representatives from the San Miguel Brewery and the Philippine Electrical Manufacturing Company (PEMCO), who informed him of their joint effort in securing the machinery to manufacture locally glass envelopes to be used in the manufacture of neon bulbs.

The President was told that the local manufacture of this article would reduce the price of neon lights and at the same time save dollars. It was added that the plant was available and all that was needed was the machinery.

Representing San Miguel Brewery were Andres Soriano, Jr., Sebastian Ugarte, and Villa Abriella. Fernando E. V. Sison and Leopoldo Rovira represented the PEMCO.

The President said that he would study the matter.

The President also received Juan del Rio, a representative of the settlers from the NARRA settlement in Panacan, Aborlan, Palawan, who brought a signed petition of the settlers complaining of lack of funds and medicine. The President told his senior aide, Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo, to accompany Del Rio to Agriculture Undersecretary Jaime Ferrer, who is chairman of the NARRA board of directors. He directed that measures be taken immediately to improve the situation of the settlers.

The President then received a group of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) specialists who are working with the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The group was accompanied by Agriculture Undersecretary Ferrer; Dr. T. S. Sales, executive secretary; Dr. F. T. Wahlen, director of agriculture, FAO; Eric E. Ward, Philippine representative to the United Nations technical assistance board; and Addison Mauder, FAO, Rome.

The FAO specialists with the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources are Dr. Magee (abaca mosaic), R. Clark (rodent control), M. T. Suzuki (fishing), Simmonds (pulp manufacture), Dr. Klaus Tiew (marine biology), Ernest Tausig (tanning), and Dr. George (forest products laboratory).

The President expressed appreciation for the work these specialists were doing in helping the Philippine Government along their specialized lines.

In the course of the conversation, the President requested Rep. Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo, who was one of the other callers, to join the group and to discuss later with Mr. Suzuki on the local fishing industry. Aldeguer has a school of fishery and is engaged in the fishing industry.

The Chief Executive then received Prof. A. Kahar Musaker, rector magnificus of the Moslem University in Jogjakarta, Indonesia, who had attended the recent Muslim conference in Marawi City, representing Dr. Nazir, chairman of the Masjumi, a Muslim party in Jakarta. He was accompanied by Septy Ruzui, an Indonesian student of the graduate school of the University of Santo Tomas, who acted as interpreter.

Muzaker extended to the-President warm regards from the Muslim people, Muslim organizations, and Muslim leaders in Indonesia in general and from Dr. Nazir in particular. He said that the Muslim in the Philippines looked to the President for protection and expressed the hope that they be given equal rights and privileges as their Christian brothers with whom "they can go hand in hand in striving for the prosperity of the country."

The President thanked Muzaker for his call and best wishes, adding that the Philippine Government was doing its best to extend all opportunities to the Muslim populations of the Philippines for greater service to the country.

The President began receiving his regular callers at the study room about 10 a.m. and continuously received hundreds of them up to about 1:30 p.m.

The callers consisted of delegations headed by political leaders coming from various provinces asking the President's aid in terms of pre-fabricated school houses, barrio roads, artesian wells, river control, and reconstruction of school houses.

Among such delegations were from those La Union, headed by Sen. Alejo Mabanag and Rep. Manuel T. Cases. Others in the delegation were Mayor Jose Madriaga of Rosario, Vice-Mayor Eusebio Cacayuran and three councilors, Mayor Moises Dulay of Aringay, and Mayor Constancio Verceles of Agoo;

From Misamis Oriental, led by Rep. Ignacio Cruz; from Davao, headed by Gov. Alejandro Almendras; from Tarlac, headed by Gov. Arsenio Lugay, together with Mayors Recaredo Tomas of Mayantoc, Mangubat of Ramos, Subaran of Gerona, Molina of Santa Ignacia, Obillo of Moncada, and Sabado of Anao; Vice-Mayor Jaime Vigilia of Camiling, and Mrs. Anastacia Sison, principal of Camiling West Elementary School;

From Ilocos Sur, led by Gov. Pedro Singson Reyes and Rep. Floro Crisologo, together with Mayors Alejandro Samonte of Candon and Samuel Orpilla of San Esteban; Vice-Mayor Hermogenes Ayson and councilors of San

Esteban and Trinidad Mina; from Pampanga, headed by Gov. Rafael Lazatin; from Quezon, headed by Gov. Leon Guinto and Rep. Leon Guinto, Jr., with Mayor Gregorio Yumul of Lopez, a Liberal, who took his oath before the President as a Nacionalista. Also present were Mayors F. Enriquez of Atimonan, M. Tañada of Catanawan, A. Clemente of Mauban, and B. Martinez of Pitogo;

From Sorsogon, led by Gov. Juan Frivaldo and Mayor Roger Trinidad of Santa Magdalena; from Romblon, led Gov. Manuel Solidum; from Nueva Vizcaya, led by Rep. Leonardo Perez, Mayor Castillo Tidang of Kayapa, president of mayors' league, and former Gov. Jose Madarang; from Bataan, led by Gov. Emilio Naval and Mayor J. Banzon.

Other delegations were those led by Mayor Jose Improgo of Cotabato, Cotabato; by Mayor Felix Velarde of Jaen, Nueva Ecija; by Mayors Nicetas Viesca of San Antonio, Nueva Ecija; by Juan de la Cruz of Santiago, Isabela; by Celedonio Magbaleta of Alicia, Isabela; and by B. Masilongan of San Jose, Batangas.

Other callers received by the President were Gov. Delfin N. Montano of Cavite and former Sen. Justiniano S. Montano; Reps. Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo, Jacobo Gonzales and Wenceslao Lagumbay of Laguna, Francisco Ortega of La Union, Serafin Salvador of Rizal, Angel Castaño of Manila, and Emilio Cortez of Pampanga.

The President received a delegation of Tanay parent-teachers association, led by its president, Jose Santos, and Datu Mantel, who requested the construction of an irrigation system in Midsayap, Cotabato.

This morning the President had breakfast with Narciso Reyes, SEATO information officer, who paid a courtesy call. Reyes holds office in Bangkok, Thailand, headquarters of the SEATO secretariat.

EXECUTIVE Secretary Fortunato de Leon this afternoon told complaining examinees of the current CPA examinations that he would confer tomorrow morning with Civil Service Commissioner Amado del Rosario and CPA Board Examiners J. S. Zulueta, Alberto Reyes, and Filadelfo Inocentes on the charge by FEU candidates that there was a leakage in the examination.

Secretary de Leon also said the last examination scheduled tomorrow was postponed until Monday, October 29. In the meantime, an investigation of the alleged leakage of an examination problem would be held.

The examinees, numbering about 200 and all from the Far Eastern University, filed a formal complaint addressed to the President, charging that an examination problem worth 15 per cent in auditing (practical) was leaked to examinees of the University of the East. Carrying placards, the FEU examinees marched to Malacañang this afternoon to submit their petition for the annulment of the examination in auditing given yesterday.

Benjamin Festin, an examinee from FEU and spokesman of the delegation, said that copy of a set of questions and answers distributed by the UE to its examinees before examination time carried an identical problem as was given in the examination. Festin charged that the set of question and answers were distributed to the candidates of UE 30 minutes before examination time.

Secretary De Leon, after consultations with Judge Salvador Esguerra, PCAC Chairman Frisco San Juan, and Malacañang Administrative Assistant Manuel Agudo, told the FEU examinees that Malacañang would take the following steps:

- (1) Order a postponement of Friday, October 26, examination until Monday, October 29:
- (2) Order an investigation of the alleged leakage of the examination problem;
- (3) Call a conference with Civil Service Commissioner Amado del Rosario and CPA Board Examiners J. S. Zulueta, Alberto Reyes, and Filadelfo Inocentes; and
- (4) Order the transfer of the examination site from the University of the East to the Philippine Normal College.

October 26.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning thanked the Australian people and government through Australian Ambassador Kenneth Charles Owen Shann and Australian Admiral D. H. Harries for the P1,100,000 worth of initial military-civilian aid pledged to the Philippine Government.

The President made this statement upon the termination shortly before noon today of the naval demonstration performed by four Australian ships, *H. M. A. S. Melbourne*, Destroyer *Tobruk*, and Frigates *Queebraugh* and *Queckmatch*, off Manila Bay.

After the demonstrations, President Magsaysay and Admiral Harries jointly issued a question-and-answer statement during which they discussed among other things the results of the recent SEATO "Operations Albatross."

To President Magsaysay's inquiry as to what lessons in cooperation with other fleets had been learned by the Australian fleet during Operations Albatross, Admiral Harries said that he had found that some limitations did exist and that many valuable lessons had been learned. He added: "Our aim now is to take account of our shortcomings, apply the lessons so that when we get together again we shall be able to go forward without having to repeat some of the basic exercises."

Regarding the constructive results of Operations Albatross, Admiral Harries said that despite the differences in language, doctrine, and procedures, "we have been able to operate as a combined fleet." He added: "We have laid a firm foundation for future exercises and with the knowledge that we have gained, we shall be able to advance to more complicated and interesting tactical training."

President Magsaysay thanked Admiral Harries for inviting him and his party consisting of high government officials and newspapermen in witnessing the naval demonstrations. He also expressed his thanks to the Australian government for "your participation in these exercises which are designed to prepare the defense of this area."

The military-civilian aid worth P1,100,000 which the Australian Government pledged to give to the Philippines will consist mostly of signal equipment, electronics equipment, engineering equipment, canned goods, automobiles, steel plates, and medical items.

Accompanied by the Australian Ambassador, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Raul Manglapus, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff, Maj. Gen. Alfonso Arellano, Commodore Jose M. Francisco, Col. Benito Ebuen, and Gov. Alejandro Almendras of Davao, the President boarded the aircraft carrier at 7:25 a.m.

He was met at the head of the gangplank by Admiral Harries and Capt. G. G. O. Gatacre, commander of the aircraft carrier. After inspecting an honor guard formed on the flight deck by a contingent of Australian marines, the President was shown around the ship by Capt. Gatacre.

The Chief Executive chatted with ailing officers and men in sick bay; sampled bread baked in the ship's bakery; watched with interest machinists and engineers as they went about their chores in the engine and boiler rooms; and viewed the communications officers in the control room as they plotted the ship's course, while it cruised outside Manila Bay.

About 9:30 a.m., the ship's planes consisting of eight Vennon jet fighters and 12 Gannet torpedo bombers started taking off from a powerful catapult at one minute intervals. In the air, the planes flew in tight formation, performed acrobatics, fired 12 mm. rockets, dropped bombs and depth charges, and made bombing runs over the ship for the benefit of the presidential party who watched on the captain's bridge.

The *HMAS Melbourne*, the flagship of the Australian Navy contingent is 21,000 tons with a complement of 1,100 officers and men. It is one of two aircraft carriers of the Australian navy which visited Manila following the SEATO maneuvers.

After the demonstrations, the *Melbourne*, with its escort of one destroyer and two anti-sub frigates, steamed back into the bay. The presidential party debarked at 12:45 p.m. just outside the breakwaters of Manila Bay.

ABOUT 2 p.m., after taking a hurried lunch at Malacañang, the Chief Executive again boarded his car and motored to San Pablo City, where he inaugurated the Hiller plant of the PHILCOA.

THE President expressed the hope that with the Hiller coconut oil and flour extractor, the coconut industry in the Philippines would be so revolutionized as to vitally improve the country's economy.

The President made this statement after attending the first open house demonstration of the Hiller plant of the Philippine Coconut Administration in San Pablo City.

The first public demonstration of the Hiller machine, which is expected to bring about important changes in the coconut industry, was witnessed, aside from the President, by high officials, coconut planters, scientists, and technicians.

The President, together with Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez, president of the Philippine Coconut Planters Association, arrived by car at San Pablo City about 4 p.m., a few hours after the President had returned to Malacañang from the *H. M. A. S. Melbourne*. He proceeded directly to the Hiller plant, accompanied by PHILCOA officials headed by PHILCOA board chairman Benjamin Silvosa. Also present was Stanley Hiller, inventor of the Hiller coconut oil and flour extractor.

The President was taken around the plant and was shown the step-by-step process of how fresh coconut meat was placed in the machine and afterwards discharged as high grade coconut flour fit for human consumption. This is believed to be a revolutionary process in the coconut industry in the Philippines. The reason for this is that in the past, coconut oil was the main product and coconut meal was the by-product of coconuts. Besides, it was further explained that the old method of manufacturing oil and meal from coconuts passed through the stage of copra or dried coconut meat.

In the course of the President's tour of the Hiller plant, he was informed that 1,240 lbs. of edible oil and 640 lbs. of edible coconut flour could be produced by 4,000 nuts per hour.

The President was informed that meal manufactured from copra contained 18 per cent to 20 per cent protein and was issued for animal food only. However, coconut meal made from the new Hiller method contained from 20 per cent to 24 per cent protein and was edible as it came out from the machine. The President tasted samples of the coconut meal as it was ground out by the machine.

It was further explained that meat from copra was rancid and unfit for human consumption until it had been refined, while meat from the new Hiller method was not rancid and was edible as it came from the machine.

Other advantages claimed by the Hiller method were that making oil and meal directly from fresh coconut produced at least four per cent greater yield than the present copra process. This alone will add greatly to the annual income of the Philippine coconut industry, it was said.

It was also stated that dollars now spent in the United States and Europe for the processing of copra into oil would be retained by the Philippine coconut industry under the new Hiller process.

The actual capacity of the first model installed at San Pablo can be determined only after completion of the test being conducted jointly by PHILCOA and Stanley Hiller, the inventor.

From the Hiller plant, the President motored to the local provincial high school grounds where he boarded a helicopter for Marikina, Rizal, where he inaugurated the Goodrich Tire Plant.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay signed today Proclamation No. 362, declaring Thursday, November 1, 1956, as special public holiday.

In his proclamation the President said that paying homage to the dead on All Saints' Day is one of "our cherished traditions," and in keeping with that tradition, "the people should be given full opportunity to observe the day with all its religious fervor."

October 27.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning indefinitely suspended the CPA examination scheduled for Monday, October 29, and at the same time designated a three-man committee "to investigate the alleged leakage of questions in the recent CPA examinations and to look into the qualifications of the members of the Board of Accountancy to continue as such."

The President's order was prompted by the complaint of about 1,000 CPA examinees from 29 colleges and universities who marched to Malacañang, accompanied by Manila Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson and Prof. Alejandro Roces of Far Eastern University.

The President first heard Prof. Roces, who charged irregularities in the current investigation of the leakage being conducted by the board of examiners and the Bureau of Civil Service. Roces and a few representatives of the CPA examinees were first received by the Chief Executive in the study room before he met the delegation at the social hall.

The Chief Executive suspended the CPA examinations scheduled for Monday, pending the outcome of the investigation by the newly-designated three-man committee. The committee, composed of Jose W. Diokno, chairman, and Anselmo Trinidad and Ramon V. del Rosario, members, was given by the President two weeks within which to submit its report and recommendations.

Roces complained to the President that the current investigation on the alleged leakage in the examination was being conducted in an *ex-parte* procedure, depriving the complainants of the chance to present their evidence and voice their grievances.

The President told the CPA examinees that he would see to it that justice prevail.

The three-man committee was granted by the President all the powers of an investigating committee, including the power to summon witnesses, administer oaths, and take testimony or evidence relevant to the investigation.

The committee was also authorized to call upon any department, bureau, office, agency, or instrumentality of the government, including corporations owned or controlled by it, for such assistance or information as may be needed.

One of the phases of the committee's inquiry will be to determine the propriety of the appointment of Jesus S. Zulueta as chairman of the Board of Accountancy. It was charged that Zulueta's being a stock-holder in a school participating in the CPA examinations barred him from appointment to the board.

AFTER receiving the large delegation from several universities and colleges which charged that there had been a leakage in the current CPA tests, the President went to his study room. Today being Saturday, he received only a few callers.

Social Welfare Administrator Amparo Villamor accompanied a group of SWA regional supervisors who were winding up a two-week seminar in Manila. Mrs. Felicidad Gatus, chief of field services, who acted as spokesman of the group, informed the President that the regional supervisors were exerting efforts in helping carry out the government's objective to improve the living conditions of the people, especially those in the rural areas.

The delegation requested the President that each region be provided with means of transportation to enable the social workers to render more effective service. Mrs. Villamor also asked that the sum of P300,000 be included in the bond issue for the reconstruction of the Welfareville building.

The President congratulated Mrs. Villamor and the officials and employees of the SWA for the good performance of their duties, but exhorted them to work harder for the sake of the people who looked to that office for help.

Another presidential caller was E. A. Richards, executive of Ford International, who was accompanied by Antonio Floirendo, a Ford distributor and businessman in Davao. Richards extended the invitation of Ford Company to the President to visit its plant in the United States if the latter's plan to visit that country should be realized. He also said that Ford already had three assembly plants in the Philippines and that his company was introducing cheaper cars here.

Mayor Hipolito Castañeda of Tarlac, Tarlac, requested the President's aid for the construction of barrio roads in his town and some pre-fabricated school houses.

A group of tourists who happened to be visiting Malacañang requested an audience with the President. They were greeted by the Chief Executive, who conversed with them for a few minutes and posed with them for souvenir pictures. Some of the visitors were from Australia and others, from the United States. To the Australians, the President recalled that he had just been aboard their country's aircraft carrier, the *H.M.A.S. Melbourne*. Two of the ladies were Miss Margarie Moore and Miss Lottie Hayes.

From his study room, the President retired to his bedroom where he went over state papers.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this evening promised that the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression "shall not be unduly limited by anyone in my administration."

At the same time, he urged the press to strengthen this freedom by "leading in the observance of its responsibilities, the first of which is the responsibility for the truth."

"I do not advocate censorship," he hastened to add. For censorship is precisely the suppression of truth. I advocate the truth—the truth that will confirm the people's confidence in the institutions of democracy and put them on the right road to happiness and security."

The President made the statements in a speech he delivered at the alumni homecoming held by the College Editors' Guild at the Philamlife clubhouse in Quezon City this evening.

He told the CEG alumni and members: "Give us the truth, the truth in government, the truth in business, the truth in the professions, the truth in every human endeavor. For it is only the truth that can lead to correct action. And action is the key to the advocacy of the national interests which is called for in the pursuit of nationalism in our time."

The President said the people must be told the truth about nationalism. The distinction must be drawn, he said, "between positive nationalism that builds and mislabelled nationalism that destroys."

He warned that "there is more than one instance in which our people must be rescued from the confusion into which they are sought to be plunged in the name of nationalism."

One instance, he said, has developed from efforts "to drive us to the ways of neutralism." The people are being told, he said, "that we are not respected in Asia because of our close relations with other countries, particularly the United States, who are pledged together with us to the collective defense of this area against the communist advance."

There is no support that could be found for this assumption, the President declared, except from communist leaders in Asia. Even the leaders of neighboring countries which follow a course of action different from that of the Philippines, he added, "are more fair in their appraisal of our relations than some of our countrymen."

Only last May, the President recalled, the foreign minister of Indonesia was quoted as telling newspapermen: "We have always envied the Philippines. The way the United States has helped build them up is an example that we want."

October 28.—ANTI-Communist Hungarian rebels appealed to President Magsaysay today for assistance in their "life-and-death struggle for freedom and elementary human rights."

Malacañang said the appeal was cabled to the President by Bela Varga, former speaker of the Hungarian Parliament and president of the Hungarian National Council

President Magsaysay indicated he will confer on the matter with Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently secretary of foreign affairs, upon the latter's arrival from Saigon, Vietnam, tomorrow.

Varga invoked a pledge of the members of the Afro-Asian bloc in the Bandung, Indonesia, conference "to support the peoples subjected to alien domination and exploitation in their fight for freedom."

The Philippines, Varga pointed out, was represented in that conference.

"We therefore feel entitled to call your attention to Soviet military aggression against the Hungarian nation."

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning declared that as long as he was the chief of state, the Manila Railroad Company would never be sold to private concerns.

The President made this remark in answer to questions asked by his audience consisting of MRR employees, in a brief open forum which followed his extemporaneous speech in Tagalog before members of the MRR United Labor Union, which had him as guest of honor at a *salon-salon* at a restaurant in Quezon City.

The Chief Executive pointed out that the MRR was created primarily for public service and that this purpose would not be attained if the MRR should fall to other hands.

In his extemporaneous speech the President praised the workers of the MRR, saying that their cooperative spirit has resulted to unprecedented progress of the company. He added that all MRR employees have won the public's respect and should feel proud of their contribution to that progress.

The President urged the MRR employees to cooperate with the Administration's efforts to eliminate the dollar-consuming facilities of the MRR "so that the funds spent for dollar-consuming equipment could be diverted for the benefit of all." He said for example that the MRR maintenance shops should begin to manufacture whatever spare parts can be made locally.

Speaking about the welfare of the MRR workers, the President said that he had already instructed MRR Manager Salvador Villa to confer with GSIS officials to explore all possibilities of extending benefits to MRR employees. He said that he would approve a plan to construct a hospital for employees of the MRR.

After the President had delivered his speech, a brief open forum followed during which the Chief Executive answered questions from his audience. Discussed in the forum were retirement pensions, overtime allowances, and other benefits.

The President was fetched at Malacañang by MRR General Manager Salvador Villa shortly after 9 a.m. He returned to Malacañang, where he ate lunch at 11:15 a.m. The President was accompanied by Maj. Jose Estrella, aide.

October 29.—THIS morning, the President made a surprise visit to the National Economic Council and inquired about the status of bond releases which had been approved by the NEC recently.

The President said that he was particularly interested in the release of the P32 million for the installation of irrigation systems in order to hasten the completion of the government's irrigation projects throughout the country and to step up the production of rice and other staple crops. The President was informed that the amount of P32 million had already been approved for release by the NEC.

In the course of his visit to the NEC, the President conferred lengthily with ranking members of the NEC staff on the survey on population, manpower, and economic activities conducted by the NEC from May 28 to June 10, 1956. Heading the NEC officials were Acting Presiding Officer Eduardo Z. Romualdez, Director Cornelio Crucillo of the NEC foreign aid office, Director Bernardino Bantegui, chief of statistical coordination and standards, and Conrado S. Ramirez, acting director of planning. Also present was Acting CB Governor Andres Castillo.

The President was informed by Director Bantegui, who did the briefing with the aid of charts and statistics, that as of the May survey, out of the 14,586,700 persons 10 years old and over, 9,497,350, or 65.1 per cent belonged to the labor force. The survey showed that of this labor force, 8,314,900 were employed and 1,182,450 were unemployed, or 57 per cent and 8.1 per cent, respectively, of the population 10 years old and over.

Bantegui further explained that in 1948, the labor force was 7,415,776, with 6,311,890 employed and 1,103,886 unemployed, or representing 55.8 per cent, 47.5 percent and 8.3 per cent respectively, of the population 10 years old and over in 1948.

Bantegui pointed out that the increase of approximately two million in the figures on the labor force and the number of employed in 1956 over the corresponding figures in 1948 showed that the Philippines economy had been able to provide employment for new entrants into the labor force.

He also emphasized that the available employment of 8.3 per cent for 1948 and 8.1 per cent for 1956 of the total population 10 years old and over, showed no substantial change since 1948.

It was also shown that the statistical results of the survey indicated that the Philippine economy had not only been able to provide for new additions to the ranks of labor but had also taken care of the backlog of unemployed persons since the census of 1948 had been taken.

After Bantegui had explained the results of the latest statistics on unemployment, Acting CB Governor Castillo said the unemployment figure of the NEC, 1,182,450, will be the basis of future reference on this matter.

The President congratulated the NEC for its conscientious study on these important data so necessary in the programming of the country's economy. He said that the government should survey every conceivable channel to seek work opportunities for the labor force. He added that he was looking forward to the completion of surveys which are being conducted by the NEC on other phases of Philippine economy.

The President arrived at the NEC building at 10:30 a.m. accompanied from Malacañang by Chairman Romualdez, Acting CB Governor Castillo, and Assistant Press Secretary Guillermo V. Sison. The President went immediately to the NEC chairman's office where he conferred with the NEC officials up to about 12 noon.

Because of the President's conference with the NEC officials, he did not receive his regular callers in Malacañang, but instead requested Assistant Executive Secretary Mariano A. Yenko, Jr., to receive the presidential callers.

However, as the President's car was going out of the Malacañang grounds, the President saw Rep. Angel Castaño with a delegation who were on their way to the study room. The President got off his car and talked with the delegation.

Castaño said he would like to request a portion of the government land in Tondo to build the Social Welfare Administration unit in that district. The President told Castaño that he was agreeable to the request but that Castaño should confer with National Planning Commission Director Anselmo T. Alquinto and Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno about the matter.

The delegation also requested that the ground floor of the Wage Administration Service on R. Hidalgo be assigned for the use of the Self-help Association of the Philippines. The President said he would study the request.

The Chief Executive also saw a delegation composed of Manny de Leon, Rosa Rosal, Rogelio de la Rosa, and Bert Avellana who saw him in connection with their receiving citations in connection with the Southeast Asia film festival held recently in Manila. The President said that he would hand to them the awards this evening at the LVN studio, as he was going there to attend Doña Sisang de Leon's birthday celebration.

Earlier, the President had breakfast with Health Secretary Paulino Garcia, who reported on the progress of the rural health units of his department. He also received Albert Taapken, vice-president of the Crocker Anglo National Bank in San Francisco, California, who paid his respects. Taapken was accompanied by RFC Chairman Eduardo Romualdez.

ASSISTANT Executive Secretary Yenko, this morning received Mrs. Raymond Sayre of Ackworth, Iowa, immediate past president of the Associated Country Women of the World and the only woman among the 18 members of the United States Agricultural Advisory Commission.

Secretary Yenko was requested by the President to receive the presidential callers. Among the first callers was Mrs. Sayre.

The Associated Country Women of the World, of which Mrs. Sayre was president, is the only international organization for rural women all over the world. Mrs. Sayre is here on a 10-day visit on her way to Ceylon to attend the 8th Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World.

During her stay here, Mrs. Sayre observed programs for rural women in Camarines Sur, Pangasinan, and Albay. She also attended three regional conferences of the Rural Improvement Club of the Philippines in the Bicol region, Central Luzon, and the Southern Tagalog provinces. Miss Carmen Adriano, national home extension supervisor of the Bureau of Agricultural Extension, and Miss Alice Elizabeth, regional home economics extension adviser of ICA in the Philippines, accompanied Mrs. Sayre to Malacañang.

A large group of members of the Federation of Filipino Retailers also called on Secretary Yenko and submitted a petition to the President urging the appointment of Efren V. Mendoza as general manager of the NAMARCO.

Secretary Yenko said he would take up their resolution with the President.

Many of the presidential callers requested aid for puericulture centers, artesian wells, pre-fabricated school houses, and irrigation systems. Secretary Yenko assured them that their requests would be granted if funds were available for the purpose.

Among the callers received by Secretary Yenko were PHILCOA Manager Benjamin Silvosa, Juan Alano, Miss Virginia Florendo, George Tirador, Mr. and Mrs. Sinai C. Hamada, members of the Society for Public Administration, Datu Mohamad Jalamaani, Jose Arroyo, Ernesto Zabala, Mrs. Crisanta Vda. de Iregayen, Juan Flores, Conchita Guinto, members of the Cement Workers Union, Sultan Bato Ali, a group of veterans with Tom Ortega and Mrs. Belen Pelejo, and member of the board of pharmaceutical examiners.

BENJAMIN F. Estrella today was designated officer in charge of the NAMARCO, vice Manuel J. Gonzalez, resigned.

Until his designation, Estrella was coordinator and special legal counsel for NAMARCO. He as a practicing lawyer and businessman both in Pangasinan and Manila.

Estrella will take his oath of office tomorrow afternoon before Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma and the NAMARCO board of directors.

October 30.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today received the report of Dr. Florencio N. Quintos, director of the Philippine General Hospital, denying an item recently published in a newspaper about a “lazy” PGH doctor who allegedly took an hour-long lunch leisurely while an emergency patient sat bleeding to near death.

Dr. Quintos, who personally delivered his report to the President this morning, said that the patient, Antonio Sernio, was never neglected. On the other hand, he said, Sernio had been given timely and proper medical treatment.

The President previously ordered Dr. Quintos to investigate the doctor who had been accused of gross negligence in a newspaper report. The PGH director, who submitted his findings this morning, said that according to Florencio Sernio, the patient’s brother, a certain reporter had been exerting special efforts to put the hospital in a bad light and that the newspaper report was based on misinformation.

Florencio Sernio, who had accompanied his bleeding brother to the PGH, never complained, according to the findings of Dr. Quintos. Sernio, in fact, had expressed gratefulness and satisfaction for the attention given his brother, Quintos said. The patient’s brother was among those interrogated in the course of the investigation conducted by the PGH director.

THE Chief Executive this morning inducted Board Member Tomas Martin of Bulacan as acting governor of the province, vice Gov. Alejo Santos, who is going abroad. The induction was held at the President’s study in the course of the call of a large delegation from Bulacan. The group included Sens. Francisco Delgado and Francisco Rodrigo, Rep. Rogaciano Mercado, and 18 mayors headed by Ignacio Santiago of Polo, president of the province’s mayors’ league.

Gov. Bado Dangwa of Mountain Province, who headed another delegation, informed the President that Igorot families who had been ejected from their homes owing to the expansion of the Philippine Military Academy site in Fort Del Pilar, Baguio City, had not as yet found a place where to settle.

The Chief Executive promptly called up Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas and instructed him to locate suitable home lots for the displaced families and to refrain from ejecting about 20 additional Igorot families from the PMA site until a settlement area had been found for them. “It is not our policy to drive out people from government lands and leave them in the cold,” the President said.

Rep. Joaquin Roces of Manila accompanied officers of the Parent-Teachers Association of the Mabini Elementary School in the city. The group requested P6,000 for the construction of a house economics building.

A delegation representing some 350 school teachers in Cavite who had been ousted from their jobs for lack of the required civil service eligibility, registered a strong protest with the President, calling their removal unfair and arbitrary. They said that many of them had been dismissed after having been in the service from seven to nine years. The Chief Executive said he would take the matter up at the Cabinet meeting tomorrow.

THE President followed a heavy schedule of callers this morning. He received visitors at his study from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Other delegations included those from Isabela, headed by Mayors Tranquilino Dalupang of Cauayan, Vicente Ferrer of Tumauni, and Lorenzo Nitura of Aurora; from Laguna, headed by Mayors Jesus Garcia of Biñan and Isidro Urriquia of Rizal; from Leyte, headed by Mayors Galicano Ruiz of Isabel, Eduardo Bugho of Buraoen, and Cayetano Dagandan of Leyte; and from Bohol, headed by Gov. Juan Pajo and Mayor Jesus Jimenez of Inabanga;

Earlier this morning, the President received visiting executives of the Singer Sewing Machine Company. Accompanied by Sen. Quintin Paredes, the executives were M. C. Lightner, the firm's president; A. K. Aurell, vice-president and Karl Kreutz, manager of the Manila branch.

Individual callers this morning included Speaker Protempore Daniel Z. Romualdez; Reps. Samuel F. Reyes of Isabela, Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz, Conrado Sanchez of Agusan, Ombra Amilbangsa of Sulu, Carlos Tan of Leyte, Leon Guinto, Jr., of Quezon, Gaudencio Abordo of Palawan, Jose Nuguid of Bataan, Maximino Noel of Cebu, Jacobo Gonzalez and Wenceslao Lagumbay of Laguna; and Gov. Dominador Chipeco of Laguna.

THIS evening, the President was the guest speaker of the American Film Exchange Employees Association and the Federation of Free Workers at the Winter Garden of the Manila Hotel in celebration of the signing of the contract between the management and the union members.

THE President was met at the Manila Hotel lobby by officials of the federation headed by their president, Johnny Tan. The President was flanked at the presidential table by Tan and Irving Mass, vice-president of the Motion Picture Export Association of America. Also at the table were Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevos, Rep. Angel Castaño, chairman of the House committee on labor, Father Walter Hogan, and representatives of film exchanges in Manila.

Leo Hocstetter of the Motion Picture of America, who acted as negotiator, delivered brief remarks while Tan introduced the President. Tan said that President Magsaysay's administration was called the administration of the common people, and the President was loved by the common man. He also said that as a result of the agreement between the management and the workers, janitors would receive P61 a week, the highest salary scale for such kind of work in the Philippines and the Orient, and compared favorably with that in Europe.

President Magsaysay in his speech emphasized the need for a friendly partnership between labor and management for their common benefit.

The President said, "When there is discord and distrust between labor and capital, the inevitable outcome is destructive and neither of them profits."

"It at the inception of a new industry, labor will give capital a boost; if labor will help push forward the aims and objectives of management and gives the latter encouragement; if labor will sacrifice a few centavos, and some of its *amor propio* and goes out of its way to give capital a helping hand during the first year of the enterprise; if it will sincerely consider capital its partner instead of its enemy, there can be no doubt that both will realize the fruits of their combined efforts," he said.

The President pointed out that, if there is peace and harmony between labor and management, both will "realize the maximum benefits of their cooperative toil."

Touching on the unemployment problem, the President exhorted to help those who are employed, those without jobs.

He said that those already employed could encourage capital to invest its millions in productive industry in order that a favorable climate may be generated and give larger opportunities to those who are out of jobs.

"One of the things that you can do to encourage capital to make such investment is to show that you are not only helping but encouraging your employers by giving them more cooperation, by bolstering their business, and by working in such a way as to enable them to realize more profits out of whatever capital they have invested," he stressed

The President went on to praise the signatories to the contract for displaying good faith and sincerity in their dealings with each other. He wished them "happy and fruitful years ahead"

The President arrived at the Manila Hotel about 6 p.m. and left the hotel about 7:30 p.m.

October 31.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning discussed the possibility of appointing more government prosecutors to cope with the prosecution of cases, with the Congress leaders at breakfast conference which lasted from 8 to 9 a. m. President at the breakfast conference were Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., Senate Majority Floor Leader Cipriano Primicias, Sen. Jose P. Laurel, and Acting Speaker Daniel Romualdez. Also present at the conference was Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason.

AFTER the breakfast conference, the President received the officials of the Asturias Planters' Association who handed him a resolution of cooperation and support. Among those in the Asturias Planters' Association delegation were Rosario Y. Singson, president, Dr. Ramon Orosco, Roberto Roces, and Mrs. Mary Ford.

Other callers received by the President before he presided over the regular Cabinet meeting were Leo Hocstetter of the Motion Picture of America and Irving Maas, vice-president of the Motion Picture Export Association of America.

THE Cabinet at its meeting today:

- (1) Relaxed the condition governing the sale by public bidding of the Bacnotan Cement plant in La Union by allowing bidders to pay either in cash or installment basis, instead of the outright cash previously announced;
- (2) Confirmed the decision of the Department of Education in classifying into five categories teachers who had failed in the recent examinations to enable some of them to be retained in the service; and
- (3) Gave priority to the Binga hydroelectric project over other power projects, particularly the Marikina development, in order that negotiations for a loan to finance the foreign exchange of this much-needed project could be started.

President Magsaysay presided over the Cabinet meeting which started about 10:30 a.m. He excused himself at 12:10 p.m. because of some engagement. The last part of the meeting which ended about 12:50 p.m. was presided over by Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently foreign affairs secretary. The meeting was held at the family dining room.

In the desire of the Administration to dispose of the government cement plant in Bacnotan, the President and the Cabinet agreed that in the sale of this plant by public bidding, bidders should be allowed to make their quotations in terms of cash payment or installment basis. The bid giving the best terms will be accepted.

As approved in a previous Cabinet meeting, one of the terms of the bidding was that the winning bidder should pay in cash. It was observed that this condition would work hardship on some bidders; hence, a relaxation on this condition was approved by the Cabinet. However, the selling price of the plant should not be less than P12.5 million.

The condition that except for top officials, all laborers already employed in the company should be kept by whoever will win in the bidding, was retained.

Upon recommendation of Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., the Cabinet approved the measures adopted by the Department of Education in cushioning the effects on the teachers who failed in the recent examination given by the Bureau of Civil Service. In order to enable some of those who had failed in the examination to retain their teaching positions, the department proposed to classify those who had failed into five categories, as follows:

- (a) In provinces where there are not enough teachers with civil service eligibilities, a corresponding number of those who failed in the examinations may be retained in the service;

(b) Teachers who took both the junior and the senior teacher examinations but who failed in the former, may be retained in the service until the results of the senior teacher examination are released, provided that such teachers are B.S.E. E. or B.S.E. graduates with methods in elementary school subjects as major. In this instance, the teachers concerned should present a sworn statement to the effect that they took the senior teacher examination with such major;

(c) Teachers who have had a total of 10 years teaching service up to June, 1956, who failed in the last regular junior teacher examination, may request the commissioner of civil service for the conversion of the said regular junior teacher examination to promotional junior teacher examination. A sworn statement as to the length of service of such teachers up to June, 1956, together with a certified B.P.S. Form 127 should be submitted to the Bureau of Civil Service with the request for such conversion. Pending action on the request for conversion, the retention of the applicant until the end of the present school year may be recommended by the division superintendent.

(d) Consideration should be given to veterans as follows:

(1) Those who secured valid, certification from the Philippine Veterans Board on or before October 27, 1956, that they are deserving veterans may be retained in the service;

(2) Those who answered affirmatively the question in C.S. Form 2 that they are members of recognized guerrilla units or the USAFFE, or are deserving guerrillas but who have not presented the necessary certification of the Philippine Veterans Board, may be given priority for reinstatement as soon as their veteran's preference is granted by the civil service; and

(3) Teachers who have filed their applications for veteran's preference after October 28, 1956, may be considered for priority in appointment in extension classes next school year.

(e) Teachers handling special subjects such as home economics, industrial arts, music, physical education, etc., may in the discretion of the division superintendent, be retained in the service in the absence of civil service eligibles possessing similar special qualifications

In order to hasten the construction of the Binga hydroelectric project, the President and the Cabinet gave this project priority over the other power projects. Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno said that this project was very important because power market surveys conducted by the National Power Corporation, and independently by utility operators, indicated that, unless existing facilities were considerably increased, there would be power shortage in the industrial areas of Luzon in the near future.

Although the Marikina multi-purpose project was authorized by law, no funds had been appropriated, reliance being made on the respective borrowing capacities of the NPC and the NAWASA. The reasons given by Secretary Moreno, who is chairman of the NPC, for the priority grant to the Binga hydroelectric project were as follow:

(a) Its capacity of 100,000 kw is almost twice the 60,000 kw of Marikina. More energy can be generated because of larger water supply available for power;

(b) It can be completed earlier and therefore will be available to meet the power demand;

(c) Comparatively, very little additional construction equipment will be needed because the same equipment used in Ambuklao will be used. This equipment is not suited for Marikina because a different type of dam is to be constructed there;

(d) The construction of Binga follows closely the pattern of the power program and will improve the financial condition of Ambuklao; and

(e) The Binga Dam will further minimize the annual floods in Pangasinan because of flow regulation and the retention effect of the two reservoirs. It will also improve the water supply of the Agno River irrigation system now under construction and will assure continuous water supply for more than 25,000 hectares.

Moreno said that the NPC believed that the Marikina project was very important because of its water supply and flood control aspects, and that, if funds were available, it should also be constructed immediately.

With this priority established, negotiations for a loan to finance the foreign exchange requirements of the Binga hydroelectric project could be started in order to hasten the construction of the project.

During the Cabinet meeting the President sent a cablegram to Joaquin M. Elizalde, former foreign affairs secretary, congratulating him for his successful bid in increasing the world quota for Philippine sugar.

Upon recommendation of Vice-President Garcia, the Cabinet approved the nomination of Education Undersecretary Martin Aguilar as chairman of the Philippine delegation to the ninth general conference of the UNESCO to be held at New Delhi, India, from November 5 to December 5, 1956.

Also during the Cabinet meeting, the President bade Press Secretary J. V. Cruz, Godspeed before his departure for Hongkong enroute to Taipeh, Formosa, where he will visit at the invitation of the Chinese Government. Cruz will then proceed to other points abroad on a vacation trip.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay accepted the resignation of former Judge Guillermo B. Guevara as special investigator, effective at the end of office hours today.

The letter of acceptance, signed by Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon by authority of the President, was mailed to Guevara.

THE President this day directed Protocol Officer Manuel G. Zamora to send floral wreaths on the occasion of All Saints' Day, November 1, to the following: the tomb of the late Presidents Quezon, Roxas, and Quirino; the burial ground of the Veterans of the Revolution; the common grave of victims of Fort Santiago; the Tombs of the Unknown Soldier; the National Cemetery at Fort McKinley; and the U S. Cemetery.

The President also ordered the Presidential Guards Battalion to mount guards at the Quezon, Roxas, and Quirino tombs from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. tomorrow.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Month in Review: November 1-15, 1956

President's Month in Review: November 16-30, 1956

Official Month in Review

November 16.—THIS morning the President received the members of the Japanese Pan Pacific Textile Market Survey Team. The Japanese textile manufacturers paid a courtesy call and presented the Chief Executive with a fine wool pennant with the following embroidered words: "Mabuhay Filipinas, from the Bisai Woolen Textile Industrial Cooperative Association of Japan."

The Japanese businessmen were accompanied by Japanese Ambassador Koichiro Asakai.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay was closeted this morning with Filipino and American military advisers.

The President was informed by American military officials that more aid was coming to the Philippines in view of recent developments in the Middle East.

No details were disclosed by the Malacañang spokesman except the terse press release which said that American military officials had asked President Magsaysay if the Philippines would be able to put up the manpower needed to absorb the equipment and aid which are due to arrive in the country soon.

Those who conferred with the President were Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao; Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Armed Forces chief of staff; Col. Manuel Q. Salientes, G-4 chief; Col. Dionisio S. Ojeda, G-3 chief; Horace Smith, U.S. minister to the Philippines; and USN Admiral Wendel Switzer; Maj. Gen. Joseph Harper, Col. John Torry, and Col. Harry A. Brenn of the International Cooperation Administration.

It was speculated that the American military advisers had told the President that the world situation has considerably improved.

This could be gleaned from the fact that when the President met newspapermen at a press conference in the afternoon, he said that the world situation had been stabilized.

THE PRESIDENT this morning conferred with Prof. Enrique M. Fernando, who had briefed the Chief Executive on the outcome of the investigation of charges that a relative and a friend of his had acquired large timber and mineral concessions in Zambales and Pampanga.

Fernando, it was learned, told the President that Celestino M. Dizon, who was quoted as having griped against these presidential "favorites," denied having made the charges.

Dizon told Fernando that his dispute with the President's relative and friend was merely a dispute over boundary claims.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay had a heavy schedule in the afternoon. In fact, the President attended two meriendas this afternoon. He had merienda with government officials who saw him in connection with the Public Administration Week.

During his conference with the government officials, the President exhorted them to avoid red tape and do away with old regulations and outmoded systems. In short, the President pointed out that officials should adopt the Chief Executive's unorthodox way of running the government.

Among the Cabinet members present at the merienda were Secretary Balao, Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevos, Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, and Acting Public Works Secretary Rafael Contreras.

Other officials present were members of the League of Administration Executives headed by Conrado Sevilla, members of the Society for Public Administration headed by Primitivo de Leon, members of the Government Personnel Association headed by Jose del Castillo, members of the Training Officers Association headed by Eleazar Manikan, and members of the Philippine Government Employees Association.

AFTER his merienda with government officials, the President attended another merienda-press conference with newspapermen. The President exchanged jokes with the newsmen.

President Magsaysay told the press conference this afternoon that the “world situation has passed the critical stage” now that the United Nations had stabilized conditions in the Middle East.

The President gave this observation as he announced that the United Nations had accepted the Philippine offer of a token force the help maintain the cease-fire in Egypt.

Malacañang said the Philippines was ready to airlift the 50-man token force any time the UN calls for the Filipino volunteers.

At the press conference, the President said that:

1. He would name Clemente Uson as chairman of the Board of Accountancy vice Jesus S. Zulueta, who resigned last week;
2. He would reorganize the Public Service Commission as soon as he could find men to become commissioner of the proposed Public Utilities Commission;
3. The Philippines was preparing itself economically and to be defense-wise in the event of an emergency;
4. The Philippines would depend on U.S. armed might for its external security;
5. He had not endorsed the junkets of senators and representatives; and
6. He might not be able to visit the United States next year because of the troubled world situation.

President Magsaysay pointed out that the United States had offered to send equipment for four divisions.

He said that, during his conference with Maj. Gen. Joseph Harper of the JUSMAG, the latter indicated that the United States had earmarked some \$7 million to help the Philippines arm itself in preparation for any emergency.

The President pointed out that the U. S. Government was also sending some 30 jet planes to strengthen our Air Force.

President Magsaysay, however, told newsmen that the world situation had improved.

He said he had abandoned plans of sending Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently secretary of foreign affairs, to the United Nations owing to the relaxation of the tension in the Middle East.

He attributed the relaxation of the situation in the Middle East, to the action of the UN which succeeded in bringing about a cease-fire in Egypt, and created an international police force to maintain the truce.

In announcing the sending of a token force to the Middle East, the President said he had received many volunteers for the Egyptian assignment.

IMMEDIATELY after his merienda conference with the newsmen, the President gave an informal dinner in honor of Dr. Howard Rusk.

Present at the dinner were Health Secretary Paulino Garcia, Dr. Antonio Sison, Antonio Madrigal, Jose Madrigal, Chito Madrigal-Velasquez, and Horace DeLien.

November 17.—THE President this morning received a report from Internal Revenue Collector Silverio Blaquera showing considerable increase in revenue collections during the first four months of the current fiscal year.

Blaquera reported that gross collections for the months of July, August, September, and October of the current year amounted to P200,211,302.14. Compared to gross collections made during a similar period of the preceding fiscal year which amounted to P180,788,568.49, this year's collections showed an increase of P19,422,733.65.

Blaquera called at Malacañang this morning to deliver personally his report.

FRANCISCO Ortigas, Jr., today expressed to President Magsaysay his regrets that he would not be available as chairman of the Reparations Commission in Manila because of his personal business interests. Ortigas thanked the President for the honor of the nomination but regretted that he could not accept the position.

In a telephone conversation this morning, the President conveyed to Ortigas the unanimous endorsement of the members of the Council of State in nominating him chairman of the Reparations Commission.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this day appointed Clemente Uson, chairman of the Board of Accountancy, to replace Jesus S. Zulueta, who had resigned.

Uson's appointment was endorsed by the Bureau of Civil Service and the Philippine Institute of Accountants.

Uson is a first grade civil service eligible and a topnotcher in the CPA examinations in 1924. He wrote a book, "Introduction to Accounting," used extensively as a textbook in many local colleges. He has been a CPA practitioner since 1927 and taught accounting in several colleges.

He has been the director of the Institute of Accountancy and had been an official of the Far Eastern University in several capacities up to 1947 when he resigned as university president.

The President today directed Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently foreign affairs secretary, to expedite the conclusion of the arrangements between the Philippine Government and the United States Government in the acquisition of prime agricultural surplus commodities.

The President said that he wanted the arrangements terminated at the earliest time in order to increase the country's stockpile of essential commodities.

The total of the surplus goods requisitioned from the United States is \$24 million.

THIS afternoon President Magsaysay received Paul Martin, Canadian minister of health and national welfare, who called to pay his respects following his recent arrival in Manila enroute to Wellington, New Zealand, where he is scheduled to attend a Colombo Plan meeting.

Accompanied to Malacañang by H. L. E. Priestman, Canadian consul general to the Philippines, Minister Martin informed the President that he would leave Manila tomorrow noon for Saigon, Singapore, Rangoon, New Delhi, Karachi, Djakarta, and Melbourne. He expects to be in Wellington about the end of the month in time to make preparations for the meeting scheduled to be held there from December 4 to 8.

In the course of his call which lasted about 10 minutes, the Canadian minister took occasion to exchange impressions with the President on the general world situation. He is being accompanied in his tour by Arthur R. Menzies, head of the Far Eastern division of Canada's Department of External Affairs.

The Chief Executive this afternoon also received visiting Rep. J. Shelly of California, who likewise paid him a courtesy call prior to his departure for Hongkong and Japan tonight after spending 10 days in the Philippines.

Congressman Shelly told the President he had arrived in Manila on the day U.S. Ambassador Albert F. Nufer died and had to stay here longer than scheduled. He said that this was his fifth visit to the Philippines and that he had always enjoyed his brief stays in Manila. Shelly was accompanied to Malacañang by Dr. Raymond Watten, his traveling companion.

The President received his callers at his study. The visits of the two foreign officials lasted from 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this afternoon signed an executive order implementing the reorganization of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources as submitted by the Government Survey and Reorganization Commission.

The objective in revamping the department is to provide the secretary and bureau directors with managerial tools and assistance for effective, economical, and integrated dispatch of the department's business.

The reorganization is highlighted by providing two undersecretaries, one with the title of undersecretary for agriculture, and the other, undersecretary for natural resources; one assistant to the secretary; and one assistant director for each bureau except the Bureau of Plant Industry and the Bureau of Agricultural Extension, which will have two assistant directors each.

The offices under the undersecretary for agriculture are the Bureau of Plant Industry, the Bureau of Agricultural Extension, the Bureau of Animal Industry, and the Bureau of Solis.

Offices to be placed under the undersecretary for natural resources are the Bureau of Lands, the Bureau of Mines, the Bureau of Fisheries, the Bureau of Forestry, and the Parks and Wildlife Office.

The reorganization has also provided for the strengthening of the staff services of the different entities in the department.

The President after signing the executive order, said that Undersecretary Jaime N. Ferrer would remain as undersecretary for natural resources while a new man would be appointed as undersecretary for agriculture.

Malacañang announced that in revamping the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, there will be no lay-offs of permanent personnel. It was, however, pointed out that lay-offs might occur in the ranks of emergency and temporary employees. The personnel involved in this group are primarily those working as farm aides, nursery laborers, and temporary forest guards employed during certain seasons of the year from one to four months.

It was further pointed out that the rotation in the employment of emergency and temporary laborers would minimize the effects of these lay-offs.

In the reorganized department, the functions intimately related to the department's work are brought into the department.

To carry out this purpose, the following offices are transferred to the department for program and policy coordination: Philippine Coconut Administration, Philippine Tobacco Administration, Philippine Sugar Institute, Abaca Corporation of the Philippines, and National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration.

The appropriations for the department under Republic Act No. 1600 are re-allocated into programs and projects, with a savings of around P1,900,000.

The executive order provides that the secretary of agriculture shall direct the orderly scheduling of transfers, changes, and other transitional actions required by the reorganization within 60 days from the effective date of the implementing details. In the interim, the order further provides that each entity affected shall continue to perform its existing functions until such time as the secretary orders change or cessation, and each officer and employee shall continue to perform his duties and to exercise his authority until such time as the secretary orders otherwise.

As reorganized, the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources shall be composed of the following offices:

Office of the secretary, which includes the undersecretaries and the assistant to the secretary;

Seven department staff divisions, namely, budget and finance, personnel, general services, legal, technical plans and schedules, agricultural economics, and agricultural information;

Eight regularly operating bureaus, namely, plant industry, animal industry, agricultural extension, soils, mines, fisheries, forestry, lands, parks and wildlife office, and agricultural tendency commission;

Five corporations, namely, Philippine Coconut Administration, Philippine Sugar Institute, Abaca Corporation of the Philippines, Philippine Tobacco Administration, and National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration.

Also included in an advisory capacity are the commission on parks and wildlife, the national agricultural council, and the national forestry council.

The President signed the executive order in the presence of Judge Salvador Esguerra, legal adviser, and Acting Press Secretary Guillermo V. Sison.

November 18.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay had much needed rest this morning preparatory to another rigorous grind in the afternoon. He was scheduled to visit Gapan, Nueva Ecija, this afternoon to inaugurate the Peñaranda chute hydroelectric plant of the National Power Corporation.

The President had breakfast with his family after hearing mass with them at the Malacañang chapel. After reading the morning papers, he worked on some pending state papers.

It was a wet afternoon for the President as he motored through Bulacan to Nueva Ecija over dusty and bumpy roads which became muddy during a rainfall that accompanied the trip.

The President left Malacañang at 12:10 p.m. and reached Ginandusan at about 3 p.m. under a driving rain. He was met at the junction in Gapan by officials headed by Gov. Amado Aleta, Rep. Celestino Juan, and mayors of Nueva Ecija.

In the party were Maj. Gen. Alfonso Arellano, Armed Forces vice-chief of staff, acting Press Secretary Guillermo V. Sison, Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo and Lt. Leopoldo Regis, military aides, and Malacañang newsmen.

President Magsaysay inaugurated this afternoon the P282,000 Peñaranda chute hydroelectric plant in barrio Ginandusan, Gapan, Nueva Ecija, and renewed promises to make available electric fluid at lower rates to rural areas.

He reiterated in two extemporaneous speeches in Ginandusan and barrio Mangino, also in Gapan, his intention to implement fully the government's rural electrification program to promote cottage industries and industrialization.

He said he would recommend again a bill to Congress revising the charter of the National Power Corporation to enable it to sell electric fluid directly to people in areas where they are charged exorbitant rates by, and receive poor service from, private firms.

The President added that he would appoint new members in the reorganization of the Public Utilities Commission (formerly the Public Service Commission) who understand and sympathize with barrio folk. The PUC grants the franchises to private electric firms.

The Peñaranda plant, with its capacity of 300 kilowatts, will serve the towns of Papaya, Peñaranda, San Leonardo, Gapan, and San Isidro.

Another plant costing P300,000 will be started next year in Talavera, Muñoz, and San Jose.

The President spoke and officiated at the inauguration ceremonies under a driving rain.

On his way to Gapan, he stopped at Guiguinto, Bulacan, where he inspected the provincial nursery and experimental farm stations of the Bureau of Plant Industry.

He was informed that the bureau, aside from propagating the Margate system, was experimenting on a new method of planting rice seedlings 10 centimeters apart and using the Milbuen variety, a short-maturing type.

This method is expected to yield 166 cavanes of palay in the experimental farm where conditions are ideal. The President was also told that the farm's yield of seedlings is sold to farmers to increase their harvest.

The President said the bureau should intensify its food production campaign, adding that the improved method of planting, combined with irrigation and the use of fertilizers, could make the people "more self-sufficient."

The presidential party also stopped in Malolos, Bulacan en route to Nueva Ecija.

On his way back to the poblacion from Ginandusan, a crowd stopped the President at Mangino, another barrio of Gapan. After speaking while standing on the hood of his car, someone drew applause from the crowd with a shout: "Let us reelect President Magsaysay."

The President and his party had merienda at the house of Emilio Goduco, provincial board member of Nueva Ecija, after addressing the crowd in Mangino.

The President returned to Malacañang about 6 p.m.

November 19.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning was informed by People's Homesite and Housing Corporation General Manager Vicente Orosa that 1,800 lots in Novaliches had already been monumented and that 900 of the lots had been allocated to Manila squatters.

The President conferred with Orosa on the progress of the PHHC projects. He congratulated Orosa and told him to rush the other housing projects of the PHHC.

After talking to Orosa, the President inducted Clemente Uson as chairman of the Board of Accountancy. The induction of Uson was witnessed by Gov. Conrado Estrella of Pangasinan and Sofronio Quimzon, technical assistant on civil affairs.

The President also received ten Indonesian students who are here on a goodwill tour and to study local youth movement. The Indonesian students were accompanied by local student leaders belonging to the SCAP, CONDA, PYCO, PISA, PHILAFS, and KADIPAN organizations.

The Chief Executive took occasion to tell the local student leaders that he had ordered the survey of the site for the Student Center on Isaac Peral. He also discussed with the student leaders problems affecting students. Malacañang Assistant Ignacio Debuque, Jr., accompanied the student group.

Several employees of the Bureau of Posts also called on the President and presented him with a resolution requesting improvement of their offices, working conditions, and medical clinic. They also requested salary increases and promotions in accordance with the seniority and civil service rules. The President assured the employees that their resolution would be studied carefully and that they would be given justice. Spokesman of the group was Higinio Alcala.

About 50 elementary teachers from Ilocos Norte complained to the President that the result of the junior teachers' examination was not being implemented in their province. They also complained against Agustin Pañares, Ilocos Norte division superintendent of schools, because of his refusal to implement fully the rules promulgated for the implementation of the result of the junior teachers' examination.

The President called to Malacañang Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., and Assistant Director of Public Schools Benigno Aldana and directed them to look into the gripes of the teachers. Secretary Hernandez told the President that he would call Pañares to Manila so that the complaints of the teachers could be settled. The teachers were headed by Pedro Ascierto.

Another caller of the President was the widow of 1st Lt. Flaviano Iglesias, who had been killed by the Huks in Minalin, Pampanga, on November 21, 1954.

Gerardo Mulles, president of the Barangay Association of the NARRA settlers in Wao, Lanao, also called on the President.

Other callers of the President included Gov. Manuel Barretto of Zambales and a group of farmers from Porac, Pampanga, headed by former Rep. Amado Yuzon.

THE President was informed this afternoon that in the matter of dollar aid approved by the Industrial Development Center, 111 Filipino applicants have been granted \$21 million which is 70 per cent of the total percentage by nationalities and 81.9 per cent of the total dollar aid given.

The President was also informed that United States aid to industries and mining has steadily risen from 1954 to the present. Aid to agriculture in the fiscal year 1957 is \$3,700,000 while aid to industry and mining is \$11,600,000.

This information was given in the course of a conference held by President Magsaysay with his financial advisers composed of Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, NEC Director Cornelio Crucillo, and B. G. Villavicencio of the NEC; and American officials composed of Minister Horace Smith, U.S. Embassy charge d'affairs; Col. Harry F. Brenn, local ICA director; and Charles L. Hedge, counsellor, for economic affairs.

The conference was held at the Malacañang family dining room from 2 p.m. to about 3:40 p.m.

During the conference, the President and his advisers reviewed the accomplishments of the joint economic development program and discussed plans for the most effective use of possible future American support.

Director Brenn, with the aid of charts, informed the President that American dollar aid for the fiscal year ending June, 1956, showed an expenditure of \$33,500,000, including \$8,600,000 for industry and mining; \$4,100,000 for agriculture; \$4,100,000 for roads and ports; \$3,400,000 for health; \$1,100,000 for education; \$700,000 for public administration; \$6,900,000 for military construction; \$4,300,000 for economic development; and \$300,000 for miscellaneous projects.

Brenn said that contributions for the present fiscal year, 1956–1957, were expected to total approximately the same amount with increased emphasis on industry and community development.

It was revealed that a recent report of applications approved by the IDC Review Committee, showed actual dollar aid of \$25 million in investment, making possible an annual increase in Philippine production of P228 million. This showed that the foreign exchange position of the Philippines would be improved by a total dollar earnings and savings in this IDC program of \$44 million annually.

Director Brenn said that the major objectives of the future program would be to continue improving life in the barrios and creating more jobs in industry and agriculture to reduce unemployment. Another major objective was to continue improving the health of the people and giving aid to education.

During the conference the American officials expressed the wish of the United States government to assist in the economic development of the Philippines to the maximum extent possible. They explained to the President and his advisers the role of the United States Congress in the appropriation of funds for future assistance and the continuing desire of the American Congress to be assured that funds appropriated are working hand in hand with the most effective utilization of Philippine resources.

Amounts of aid for the fiscal year 1957-58 were discussed for those areas of joint activity which both Governments were desirous of emphasizing and for which funds might appropriately be requested of the American Congress.

Director Brenn presented a resume of accomplishments of those phases of the Philippine progress which received American economic and technical assistance during the past several years. Progress in the fields of industry and mining, agriculture, roads and ports, health, education, public administration, and community development were reviewed.

Director Brenn revealed that with regard to the barrio road program, 81 bulldozers costing \$1 million arrived last year and are now being used. He added that additional farm equipment costing \$4,700,000 was being purchased and would arrive soon. This consists of 106 graders, 258 dump trucks, 83 bulldozers, 30 pneumatic rollers, etc.

November 20.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning ordered the organization of a staff composed of the heads of the Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Financing Administration, the National Marketing Corporation, and the National Rice and Corn Corporation to systemize procurement and distribution of prime commodities, with the view to providing the people, especially those in the rural areas, with sufficient stocks of these essential supplies at the cheapest prices.

The President directed ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo, NAMARCO officer-in-charge Benjamin F. Estrella, and NARIC General Manager Jacinto Gavino to coordinate the activities of their agencies and prevent duplication of functions in procurement, marketing, storage, processing, and distribution of prime commodities in order to effect greater coverage of operations and more efficient service to the people.

Under this program, priority will be given to the distribution of rice, salt, sugar, *bagoong*, *tuyo*, *tinapa*, ramie, denim, canned milk, salmon and corned beef.

In the case of rice, the plan calls for a division of activities and areas of operation among the three agencies.

With this triangular coordination the three agencies will have their fixed spheres of operation without having to overlap or duplicate each other's activities. They will thus realize savings in operational costs which can better be invested in the improvement of their respective services.

The NARIC-NAMARCO-ACCFA combination will lend valuable support to the ACCFA's program to inter-regional and inter-crop exchange of surpluses utilizing the widespread facilities of the FACOMAs.

The President issued this directive after making surprise visits to the ACCFA offices on Taft Avenue, the *bagoong* packing plant of the Coron (Palawan) FACOMA on R. Vicencio Street in Mandaluyong, Rizal, the NAMARCO Office, and the Philippine Charity Sweepstake Office at Muelle de la Industria.

The President was accompanied in his surprise visit by Acting Press Secretary Guillermo V. Sison, ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo, and Lt. Leopoldo Regis, junior aide.

At the ACCFA offices, where the President dropped in first, he was informed by Mondoñedo of a recently-completed agreement with sugar producers of a new program of distribution and marketing of sugar for domestic consumption. The objectives of the sugar trading operation are:

- (1) To lower the price of sugar to local consumers, including the people in rural areas;
- (2) To wrest the large profits in current trading operations from alien control and channel such profits to the consumers; and
- (3) To increase the local consumption of sugar, thus aiding the sugar growers and at the same time raising the rate of consumption to promote health among the masses.

Under the plan, the Central Cooperative Exchange, Inc., will distribute sugar for domestic consumption with the FACOMAs as wholesale outlets in the different towns and barrios, and as NAMARCO distributors in the urban centers.

This project is expected to reduce the price of sugar materially and bring it within the reach of the poor.

From the ACCFA offices, the President proceeded to the new cooperative *bagoong* cannery plant in Mandaluyong, Rizal, where he inspected the different installations of the plant. He was informed that the first *bagoong* project financed by the ACCFA was being operated by Coron FACOMA of Palawan.

The President was pleased to learn that the *bagoong* project is expected to start the Filipinization of the *bagoong* industry in the Philippines. He was told that this project would set the pace for similar plants in the near future when fishing centers in the Visayas and Mindanao organized into FACOMAs may apply for financing from the ACCFA.

The *bagoong* plant operates on an initial loan of P30,000. It has a capacity of 500 cases daily, a case containing 48 milk-cans of *bagoong*.

The President inspected the several fermenting vats containing the salted fish almost ready for the final process of canning. He was pleased to learn that the plant would start canning on December 15, 1956.

The President was taken around the plant by P. R. Manacop, chief of ACCFA's fisheries division.

The Chief Executive was further informed by Mondoñedo of the fish meal development program of the Central Cooperative Exchange, Inc. The project aims to produce fishmeal products for the livestock industry.

The President was appraised of the arrival on November 21 of a Hiller fishmeal machine to be operated jointly by the CCE and Balatan FACOMA in Camarines Sur. It is a P40,000 fishmeal machine with a daily capacity of four to five tons of finished fishmeal a day.

The Chief Executive showed interest in the following figures, indicating the growth of the FACOMA all over the Philippines: number of cooperatives registered with ACCFA, 404 with a total individual membership of 235,448 spread out in 448 municipalities and 10,340 barrios.

From the *bagoong* plant the President again motored to the NAMARCO offices at Muelle de la Industria, arriving there at 11 a.m. He found Benjamin Estrella receiving provincial delegations in his office and attending to their needs.

In brief remarks to the people gathered in Estrella's room, the President said that the NAMARCO was an instrument of the government to serve the people and help especially the masses. "The NAMARCO exists for the people and not for the unscrupulous middlemen. Therefore, this office should serve the people," the President said.

The President was presented by Estrella with the NAMARCO's first report for 1955–1956. Also present were other NAMARCO officials, including Juan Noble, assistant general manager, and Antonio Zacarias, corporate secretary.

The President was pleased to notice that Estrella was going out of his way to attend to the needs of the people. Estrella said that he made himself accessible to all visitors and has opened the door of his office for everyone to come in to ask for his help.

Estrella said that the new NAMARCO administration has caught the spirit of the President's idea of public service and was translating it into action.

In the course of his conference with Estrella, the President learned of the delivery of 100,000 sheets of galvanized iron to the NAMARCO, which are of inferior quality. He learned that three out of ten sheets are very brittle and that two out of seven are second class.

Immediately, the President directed Estrella to look into the matter in order to fix responsibility and to take proper action to protect the interests of the government and the consuming public.

Estrella said that he was withholding the disposal of this stock until after the investigation and after corresponding reduction in price was made, so that this stock could be sold at much cheaper price.

The President also conferred with Eugenio E. Santos, general manager of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, whose office was on the ground floor of the same building where the NAMARCO offices are. Santos informed the President that the PCSO sold for the year 1956 sweepstakes tickets in the amount of P23 million as compared to P9 million in 1953. He added that tickets amounting to P2,200,000 had already been sold for the December draw.

Santos also informed the President that during the present administration P10 million had been distributed to various charitable institutions. He said that out of the estimated P30 million sale for next year, between P8 million and P9 million would be distributed to charity.

The President left the NAMARCO office at about 11:15 a.m.

AS Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently foreign affairs secretary, was out of town, the President asked Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon to receive scheduled callers on his behalf this morning.

Micheal Stranchen and Gordon K. Jones, visiting shipping executives from London, Great Britain, called to pay their respects following their recent arrival in Manila in the course of a tour of Asian cities. They were accompanied by John M. Bradley, manager of local Dodwell and Company.

A delegation from the Philippine Chamber of Industries called to invite the President to induct its newly elected officers in a ceremony to be held at the Manila Hotel on a date best convenient for him. Roberto Villanueva acted as spokesman for the group.

Secretary De Leon received callers from 9 to 11 a.m. Visitors were made up mainly of provincial delegations which solicited assistance for their respective localities.

Such delegations were those from Ilocos Norte, headed by Gov. Antonio Raquiza and Mayor Apolinario Nagdirila of Pinili; from Tarlac, headed by Gov. Arsenio Lugay and Mayor Dioscoro D. Felix of San Miguel; from Masbate, headed by Rep. Mateo Pecson and Mayor Benjamin Magallanes of Masbate municipality; from Leyte, headed by Gov. Bernardo Torres and Francisco Burgos of Villaba; and from Capiz, headed by Gov. Jose Dinglasan.

Other delegations were those from Laguna, headed by Reps. Jacobo Gonzales and Wenceslao Lagumbay; from Palawan, accompanied by Rep. Gaudencio Abordo; from Sorsogon, headed by Rep. Vicente L. Peralta; from Nueva Vizcaya, headed by Rep. Leonardo Perez; from Cavite, accompanied by Rep. Jose T. Cajulis; from Batangas, headed by Rep. Apolinario Apacible; from Camarines Norte, headed by Rep. Fernando V. Pajarillo; and from Bukidnon, accompanied by Rep. Cesar Fortich.

Individual callers included Sens. Decoroso Rosales, Roseller T. Lim, Mariano J. Cuenco, and Francisco Rodrigo.

November 21.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay discussed with his financial adviser and United States officials here plans for Philippine importation of certain surplus agricultural commodities designed to make available for pesos additional agricultural products to the local economy over and above normal commercial imports into the country.

To be included among the surplus agricultural products to be imported are essential commodities. A large amount of raw cotton was also included in the importation in order to assure raw material supply for local textile mills.

The importation of the surplus agricultural products was discussed by the President with his financial advisers and U. S. officials at a breakfast conference. At the request of the President, it was agreed that further discussion would be held shortly with a view to recommending concrete proposals to Washington for implementation in the shortest possible time.

Present at the conference were Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, Sr., NEC Director Cornelio Crucillo, B. G. Villaviciencio of the NEC, U. S. Embassy Charge d'Affairs Horace Smith, local ICA Director Harry Brenn, U. S. Embassy Counsellor for Economic Affairs Charles L. Hodge, Administration Gwynn Garnett of the Foreign Agricultural Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Director Ben H. Thibodeaux of the Office of International Trade of the U. S. Department of State, and U. S. Embassy Agricultural Attache Douglas Crawford.

The surplus imports, with a total amount of \$24 million, will be paid for in pesos over a 20- or a 30-year period. The conference lasted from 8 to 9 a.m.

After the conference, the President received C. V. Narashimham, executive secretary of the ECAFE, who paid a courtesy call. Narashimham was accompanied by Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma and Undersecretary Perfecto Laguio.

MEANWHILE, the Chief Executive sent the following message of condolence to Mrs. Enriqueta Benavidez, widow of the late Anacleto Benavidez, commercial attache of the Philippine Consulate General in New York, who died yesterday, November 20, in New York:

“Mrs. Magsaysay and I are extending our deepest sympathies on the sudden passing of your beloved husband. I like to remember him as one of the stalwarts of the Philippine press who had helped so much to make it the militant and fearless institution that it is today. There is no doubt that, for all his contributions to the healthy growth of Philippine journalism, the members of our fourth estate will deeply mourn his passing. Again please know that we share your bereavement.”

UPON recommendation of the National Economic Council, President Magsaysay and the Cabinet at their meeting this day clamped a total ban on the exportation of ferrous scrap metal (iron and steel).

The Cabinet action amended its resolution of February 29, 1956, permitting the exportation of scrap iron on a straight dollar basis.

According to the Cabinet decision, henceforth no exportation of scrap iron and steel under any category—whether for dollars, barter, or any other purpose—shall be authorized.

The Cabinet directed the Export Control Committee to be guided accordingly in implementing this new policy. The Cabinet further resolved that this new policy should not apply to non-ferrous metals like brass, copper, and other non-ferrous materials.

Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, who is a member of the NASSCO Board of Directors and the Export Control Committee, recommended to the Cabinet the adoption of the total ban on the exportation of ferrous scrap metals. Crisol sat in place of Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao at the Cabinet meeting.

The Cabinet meeting was presided over by President Magsaysay from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the family dining room.

President Magsaysay reiterated to Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez to exert all efforts in implementing fully the government's standing policy of reforestation.

When informed by Secretary Rodriguez that some P5 million are available for reforestation, the President told the agriculture secretary to utilize wisely that amount in order to forestall erosion in areas where trees had been felled. The President told Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona to include in the budget for the next fiscal year P15 million for a more intensified reforestation work.

The Chief Executive and the Cabinet approved a recommendation that government financial institutions grant liberal credit facilities to private firms engaged in wood processing industries and other industries using local raw materials like wood pulp for the manufacturers of paper. In this connection, it was pointed out that the Industrial Development Center could help in the granting of dollars.

Regarding the expansion of the local logging industry through importation of more machinery for the purpose, it was decided that each case would have to be processed individually on its merits. The Cabinet decided that the Central Bank should help logging industries in their problems.

During the Cabinet meeting the President directed that the installation of the fish-meal factory in Camarines Sur by the ACCFA should be hurried up. He had been informed yesterday by ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo of the arrival on November 21 of a Hiller fish-meal machine to be operated jointly by the Central Cooperative Exchange, Inc., and the Balatan FACOMA in Camarines Sur. This fish-meal machine is worth P40,000 and has a daily capacity of five tons of finished fish meal.

The President said that if this fish-meal project would prove successful, another would be established in Sulu and another in Palawan. This fish-meal factory will produce fish-meal products for the livestock industry.

The Cabinet approved the plan of the Philippine Government to invite officially Dr. Frank Co Tui to visit the Philippines to help in furthering the objectives of the Science Foundation in the country.

The objectives of Dr. Tui's visit are: (1) to make a survey of science needs of the Philippines; (2) to help the government in an effective way in the promotion of the science; and (3) to raise funds from voluntary contributions for, and in behalf of, the Science Foundation of the Philippines.

Dr. Tui is Director of the Creedmoor Institute for phycho-biological studies of New York State Mental Hospital. His visit to the Philippines will entail no expenses on the part of the government.

The Cabinet also authorized: (1) the extension of the leave of absence without pay of Miss Aurora C. Reyes, an assistant chemist in the College of Forestry, U.P., from January 20, 1957 to January 20, 1958, to enable her to complete training in the cellulose chemistry and related fields at the College of Forestry of the State University of New York, Syracuse, New York; and (2) one year leave of absence without pay of Miss Amparo O. Soriano, ward nurse in the Rizal Provincial Hospital, to enable her to take up post graduate course in obstetric nursing in the Margaret Hague Maternity Hospital, New Jersey, under the exchange visitor program.

After the Cabinet meeting at 1:30 p.m., the President received Mayor Paciano Miralles of Alang-alang, Leyte, who asked for financial assistance for the reconstruction of the municipal building of his town. He was accompanied by former Rep. Atilano Cinco.

November 22.—THE President spent Thanksgiving Day at the Palace this day, not completely free from concern over affairs of state.

After going over some state papers, the President took time off from his official chores and went to Manila International Airport to bid Godspeed to his younger brother, Genaro, who left for the United States to take post graduate courses. Genaro has been a practicing attorney since he passed the bar a few years ago.

The President marked the special holiday by issuing orders to several officials for the investigation of reported anomalies.

AFTER receiving Cebu City Mayor Sergio Osmeña, Jr., at breakfast this morning, the President directed Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason to expedite the filing of cases against fictitious right-of-way claimants in Cotabato. The racket reportedly involved one million pesos.

At the same time, the President told Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, who had conducted a preliminary investigation on this matter, to confer immediately with the justice secretary.

Crisol said that, according to reports he had received, some 500 people, including a politician, are allegedly involved in these anomalous claims amounting to about P1 million. Some P300,000 had already been paid when anomalies were discovered.

Crisol said that upon learning of this alleged racket from news reports, he personally went to Cotabato to investigate it. He asked Director Jose G. Lukban, Assistant Director Natividad de Castro, and Arturo Xavier of the National Bureau of Investigation to help in the investigation.

Public Highways Commissioner Rodolfo Maslog also went to Cotabato to look into charges against fake claimants, but he had to return to Manila after a week because he had been threatened.

According to reports, right-of-way claimants inflated the value of their lands by mentioning false improvements in order to jack up the appraised value. It was further reported that this was done allegedly by collusion among public works, agriculture, and treasury officials.

Crisol said that the investigators were ready with their cases.

IN the evening the President directed Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao to suspend from office all Armed Forces officers connected with backpay payments, pending the termination of a thorough probe of these alleged anomalous payments in the Army.

Among the offices which have something to do with backpay payment are the Judge Advocate General's office claims division, the finance department backpay division, and the central backpay records division.

According to reports, civilians who had not rendered military service or had not been guerrillas were able to receive backpay payments. It was further reported that this was made possible through connivance with some Army personnel who allegedly tampered with Army records.

The President said that Col. Pedro Hernando, AFP adjutant general, should not have asked the PCAC's help in the investigation, as the Army had enough competent men to do the job.

THE President this evening addressed the members of the Philippine-China Cultural Association at the New Selecta on Dewey Boulevard.

In his brief address the President said that, despite the various handicaps and financial limitations, the country was striving hard towards the attainment of the people's material happiness.

He said: "With the little that we have, in the way of weapons to fight and conquer poverty, we are vigorously pushing forward. I think that a certain measure of success has been achieved and it is my hope that barring unforeseen calamities of a grave nature, our nation's future looks bright and promising."

The President pointed out that economic self-sufficiency was a pre-requisite to the achievement of culture. He said that culture would grow and develop only when the people are economically sufficient and they enjoy human freedom.

"It is only after we have attained a certain amount of economic freedom that we can expect the minds of our people to start roaming over the infinite expanse of thought and imagination. The growth of culture in our land will come after our people have achieved their minimum basic needs," he explained.

He emphasized that the human mind had to be completely free and at ease in order that culture might grow. He said that to give growth to culture, the mind must be unchanged.

The President said that it was the duty of intellectuals to rouse the people from their economic indifferences and lethargy so that they might aspire to heights of material sufficiency, a most important requirement to the attainment of cultural growth.

Regarding the vicissitudes that are occurring in China, the President said that ideologies might come and go, conquerors might triumph and fail, but "the deep rooted culture of the Chinese people will remain."

November 23.—BECAUSE he was busy mulling over what he would say in speeches he was scheduled to deliver during his visit in Cebu City this afternoon, the President did not receive visitors this morning.

After reading the morning papers, the President went over some pending papers needing immediate attention.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay flew to Cebu City at 12:30 this afternoon aboard the new Air Force plane *Pinatubo*, which was converted from the former presidential aircraft *Laong-Laan*. The plane was named after Mt. Pinatubo in the President's native province of Zambales.

Commenting on the new plane, the President jokingly said he hoped it "won't explode like the Zambales mountain." With the presidential party were three Cebu representatives—Ramon M. Durano, Maximino Noel, and Isidro Kintanar.

Others who tagged along were Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adeveso and former Rep. Agripino Escareal of Samar, former Liberal who recently turned Nacionalista and now employed as legal counsel of the Senate. Maj. Teofilo Zosa, aide of Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, was also with the presidential party.

Another member of the party was Felisberto Verano, deputy civil defense administrator, who left his work in Manila to have a ride on the *Pagasa* plane, which carried Malacañang newsmen.

The presidential plane landed at Lahug airport at 2:40 p.m., and the President was met upon alighting by a huge throng headed by City Mayor Sergio Osmeña, Jr.

Upon arrival, the President rode with young Osmeña at the head of a motorcade around the city where he viewed the area recently gutted by a disastrous fire. Then he paid a courtesy call on ex-President and Mrs. Sergio Osmeña, Sr.

From the Osmeña residence, the President proceeded to the Provincial Capitol to address a gathering of municipal mayors and provincial officials. The meeting eventually turned into a gripe session, with the President answering all questions of the mayors on the spot.

IN a speech before a gathering of Cebu Patria and Mine Workers at the Capitol building this afternoon, the President said increased base metal productions the past few years had provided the country with much-needed foreign exchange to finance other vital industries designed to make this nation self-sufficient.

The President disclosed that the Philippines about six years ago produced only 712,719 metric tons of concentrates and ore valued at P18,285,987.00. Today's production had gone up to 2,152,178 metric tons valued at P92,123,585.00 or an increase of P73,837,598.00, he said.

The Chief Executive attributed the sharp increase in mineral production mainly on foreign and local factors. The foreign factor included price improvement, especially in Japan, and the growing interest of that country to purchase Philippine mineral products. Among the local factors mentioned by the President were the greatly improved peace-and-order conditions and the favorable atmosphere created by the present Administration for private business to enter this hazardous industry.

Emphasizing that base metal production is one of the country's main sources of valuable dollars, the President concluded: "In a great measure, both capital and labor engaged in the mining industry has a great responsibility to the people. Through their efforts, planning, and industry, this country may yet attain economic independence, abundance, and prosperity."

After his speech before the mine workers, the President had a conference with provincial, city, and municipal officials who brought to his attention some of their most pressing problems. During the conference, which turned out to be a gripe session, many of the officials present took the opportunity of requesting assistance for their respective localities.

AT a banquet tendered in his honor later in the evening by various civic organizations in the province at the social hall of the 3rd Military Area headquarters, the President said that he had relied greatly on the valued assistance and cooperation of civic organizations when he launched the drive for clean and honest government and his integrated program for rural development.

"The help of civic-minded and responsible citizens has been almost indispensable in the current drive to rid the government of misfits and undesirables," the President said. "Many investigations got stymied because the people who knew of the crimes committed refused to volunteer information and testify. Without civic consciousness and open mass support, our government is bound to fail in cleaning it of bad elements no matter how hard we try to do so."

Continuing, the President stated: "In this period of nation-building we have no place for ivory-tower critics. We need men with their feet on the ground, men who are in constant touch with the needs of the community, who are practical and open-minded and, above all, who are dedicated. I believe these men can be found in the many self-less civic organizations."

The President concluded: "Because the members of civic organizations live with the masses in the towns and barrios; because they are the intellectual and moral leaders of the community; because they are organized and are effective because of their organization—the nation's civic organizations face the greatest challenge of our time . . . I call upon all of them to pick up the gauntlet—for the sake of our country and people."

AT the reception and ball given at 9 p.m. by the Mindanao and Sulu Students Association of Cebu at the Club Filipino, the President expressed gratifications over the unity of the students from the southernmost regions of the country who are pursuing their studies in Cebu City.

He said: "There are many communities in Mindanao whose progress is the work not of Visayans alone, not of Tagalogs alone, and of Ilocanos alone, but of Visayans, Tagalogs, Ilocanos, Bicolanos, and Moslems working together as Filipino to erect typical Philippine communities in that land of promise. With this spirit of unity, nothing should stop you, the youth of Mindanao and Sulu, from responding successfully to the challenge of leadership that awaits you."

The Chief Executives urged the students to work and study hard to prepare themselves thoroughly to build Mindanao and Sulu. "This is the task that awaits you not only as youth and students of Mindanao and Sulu, but more especially as Filipinos," he said. "For as our heroes died not for Luzon alone nor for the Visayas alone but for every inch of land that God gave our nation; so also must you work not for Mindanao alone nor for Sulu alone but for the whole of the country which is your own," he concluded.

Highlight of the affair was the induction by the President of newly-elected officers of the students' organization.

November 24.—LEAVING Cebu City at 12:10 this morning, the President landed at the Manila International Airport at exactly 2:15 a.m. aboard the presidential plane *Pinatubo*. He reached the Palace about 15 minutes later.

Although the President had very little sleep, he did not show the effects of his strenuous speaking engagement in Cebu City yesterday, when he received this morning a large group of United States solons.

THIS morning the President received a large delegation of American senators and congressmen who called at Malacañang to pay their respects following their recent arrival in Manila aboard a military transport plane enroute back to Washington after attending an Interparliamentary Union Conference in Bangkok, Thailand.

Receiving them at his private study, the President interested his visitors by outlining his administration's program of rural development and recounting to them the unorthodox methods he had successfully employed to rid the country of dissident elements. The call lasted for almost two hours, a good portion of which was devoted to exchanging impressions on the latest world developments, particularly as it affects countries in this part of the world.

Toward the end of the call, Mrs. Magsaysay came and presented the wives of the legislators with souvenirs consisting of locally-produced *piña* handbags. The President gave each solon a box of Philippine cigars.

The group included Rep. and Mrs. John S. Robsion of Kentucky. Rep. Robsion had been a classmate of Malacañang Protocol Officer Manuel G. Zamora at the college of law of Washington's National University some 30 years ago.

The visiting solons were accompanied to Malacañang by Minister Horace Smith, charge d'affaires of the U. S. Embassy in Manila, and Col. Harry Brenn, chief of the ICA.

Other members of the group included Sen. and Mrs. Gordon L. Allot of Colorado, Sen. Frank A. Barrett of Wyoming and daughter, Mrs. Ricard B. Tobin, Sen. and Mrs. Albert Gore of Tennessee, Sen. and Mrs. Thomas C. Mannings of Missouri, Sen. and Mrs. A. S. Mike Monroney of Oklahoma, Rep. and Mrs. Henry O. Talle of Iowa, Rep. and Mrs. Hale Boggs of Louisiana, Rep. and Mrs. John W. Byrnes of Wisconsin, Rep. and Mrs. Antoni N. Sadlak of Connecticut, Rep. Katharine St. George of New York and her daughter, and the wife of Rep. Paul C. Jones of Missouri.

The call lasted from 10 a.m. to almost 12 noon.

IN the afternoon the President went over pending state papers. In the evening he motored to the Manila Hotel, where he spoke before the Batangas Lawyers Association.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay paid high tribute this evening to lawyers of Batangas and urged them to lead the way for the establishment of an integrated bar association in the country.

He was the guest of honor and principal speaker at the inaugural banquet and ball of the newly-formed Batangas Lawyers Association at the Winter Garden of the Manila Hotel.

While he lauded the qualities of legal luminaries from Batangas and their contribution to Philippine jurisprudence which, the Chief Executive said, are “shared by every Filipino lawyers worth his name.,” he deplored their lack of unity as a national group.

The President said:

“I am not a lawyer and I will not pretend to tell this group of distinguished lawyers of the benefits to their profession of a unified national lawyers’ group. But in the discharge of the duties of my office, it is not difficult to see the necessity for such unity in the interest of the public service.

He said there was need for “unified advice” which he could avail of on matters of appointment to positions involving the legal profession.

President Magsaysay also cited the advantage the Congress and the Supreme Court would gain from consulting with an integrated bar association in the passage of legislation and in upholding the “effectiveness and the majesty of the law.”

He admitted that his advocacy of a federation of bar associations is not a new idea. He credited Sen. Jose P. Laurel with originating it as early as the 1920’s.

The President recalled that in the country’s fight for freedom it was a Batangas lawyer, Apolinario Mabini, “who with his giant mind and brilliant pen outlined the philosophy of our revolution and the legal bases of our first Republic.”

He cited also the role played in the libertarian movement of such Batangas lawyers as Felipe Agoncillo, Sotero Laurel (father of Sen. Laurel), Diego Gloria, Braulio Bejasa, Pablo Borbon, and Vicente Illustre.

The President also mentioned former Chief Justice Manuel Araullo, Teodoro Kalaw, Ramon Diokno, and Eusebio Orense. Among the living lawyers from Batangas he praised “the Laurels, the Rectos, the De Joyas, the Ozaetas, and the Levistes.” (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 6869–6870, for the full text of the President’s speech).

The President officiated at the induction of the first set of officers of the association.

November 25.—BECAUSE of his scheduled visit to Negros Oriental this afternoon, the President took it easy this morning to conserve energy for another rigorous speaking engagement.

After reading the morning papers, the President went over the draft of a speech he was preparing to deliver at the Silliman University this afternoon.

THE President enplaned for Dumaguete City at 12:35 this afternoon. He was accompanied by Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, Rep. Lorenzo Teves of Negros Oriental, and Cebu City Mayor Sergio Osmeña, Jr.

A large crowd headed by Gov. Serafin Teves and Dumaguete City Mayor Mariano Perdices met the presidential party at the airport, where the President was greeted with a 21-gun salute.

From the airport, the President motored to Simbulan to inaugurate its new town hall. Here another 21-gun salute boomed the town's welcome.

After inaugurating the P54,000 Simbulan municipal building, the President returned to Dumaguete City. On the way he stopped at St. Paul's College to attend a benediction at its college chapel.

Then he proceeded to Silliman University, where he delivered a prepared speech on the occasion of the opening of Silliman's *Gates for Opportunity*.

In his speech at Silliman University the President stressed the role which universities played in nation-building, saying that they were the index to a nation's capacity for greatness and the pools of talent from which government administrations might freely draw specialized assistance.

The President said that university graduates not only man the professions and direct the country's economy but their scholars, philosophers, and intellectuals create the blueprint of national life, "forever guiding it to a nobler and loftier destiny."

He urged the intellectuals of universities to continue to give increasing thought and study to our contemporary problems, domestic as well as international, "for universities are the pools of talent from which government administrations may freely draw a specialized assistance."

In the course of his address, President Magsaysay said that he was using the services of university men whom he had found most useful, especially in those aspects of our great task which required "keen analysis of situations, thinking out problems and their solutions full circle, planning long-range programs, and advising on technical specialized matters."

The President pointed out that modern statesmanship had to do with practically all aspects of human life. He added: "And human life being constantly increasing in complexity on the one hand and the world being perpetually in crisis on the other hand, statesmen have to rely more and more on the trained thinkers of the universities, either mustered directly into service or reflecting and writing on the problems of the nation in their ivory towers."

The President said that the Government's effort is being aimed at the promotion of the people's welfare in all its forms and facets, the public administration could bring about positive action more swiftly and surely when he could count with the assistance of the intellectuals.

He paid tribute to Silliman, calling it a progressive university which "has contributed scholars and intellectuals to the public service." He said that Silliman should be ready to serve.

"In fact, I am certain, given its tradition of scholarship, service, and accomplishment, Silliman will not fail to rise to any national situation by which it may be challenged," the President said. (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 6870-872, for the full text of the President's speech.)

THE President also spoke afterwards before a conference of town officials at the City Hall of Dumaguete. From here he went to the residence of the governor for cocktails before his return trip to Manila about 8 this evening.

November 26.—PRESIDENT and Mrs. Magsaysay this morning had breakfast with Francis Cardinal Spellman, who is staying in Malacañang as a house guest during his visit here for the Second National Eucharistic Congress.

The breakfast was held following a mass said by Cardinal Spellman at the Malacañang chapel. The mass was heard by the First Lady, her children, and some friends of the family. Among those who partook of the breakfast with the

President, the First Lady, and Cardinal Spellman were Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, Social Welfare Administrator Amparo P. Villamor, Papal Nuncio Egidio Vagnozzi, Archbishop Rufino J. Santos of Manila, Archbishop Julio Rosales of Cebu, Mons. John Fleming, Fr. Pedro Verceles, S. J., Lt. Col. Nicolas Ortega, AFP chief chaplain, Mrs. Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., Mrs. Alejo Labrador, and Mrs. Francisco "Koko" Trinidad.

AFTER the breakfast, the President left the Palace for an undisclosed place. Before leaving he requested Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon to receive the presidential callers.

Meanwhile, Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently secretary of foreign affairs, inducted Pedro Gil of Manila as Philippine Minister to Argentina. Held at Malacañang, the induction was witnessed by top government officials, friends, and relatives of the new minister.

Among those who witnessed the induction were Sens. Jose P. Laurel, Sr., Alejo Mabanag, Jose Zulueta, and Gil J. Puyat; and Rep. Miguel Cuenco, Justice secretary Pedro Tuason, Justice Sabino Padilla, Justice Alfonso Felix, Justice Sotero Cabhug, Justice Undersecretary Jesus Barrera, Don Gonzalo Puyat, former Secretary of Justice Jose P. Bengzon, former Secretary Sotero Baluyut, Mrs. Lourdes Gil-Puyat, and many others.

The callers received by Secretary De Leon included a group of mining claim owners of Bueno Hill, Capas, Tarlac, who wanted to express their gratitude to the President for his help in the mining controversy with the U. S. 13th Air Force authorities a few months ago.

Headed by Enrique Sta. Maria, president of the Mining Claims Owners' Association, the delegation informed De Leon that the President's help was vital in the settlement of the manganese ores controversy.

Sta. Maria said that normal operations in hauling manganese ores had resumed many weeks ago. He added that the resumption of hauling manganese ores had greatly eased unemployment problem in that area.

Secretary De Leon told the mining claim owners that the President would be glad to hear about the resumption of hauling operations because the mining industry could greatly help the economic development of the country.

Gov. Salvador T. Lluch of Lanao accompanied Iligan City Mayor Mariano Ll. Badolles. They requested assistance in public works improvements in Lanao and Iligan City.

Miss Chin Stagg, daughter of the late *Philippine Free Press* "Jungle Philosopher" Samuel Stagg, expressed her gratitude to the President for his assistance on the occasion of her father's death last October 16. She was accompanied by her cousin, Eugene Sison.

Jose Manglicmot, vice-commander of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, PVL chapter, accompanied some members from that chapter requesting priority in the residential lot distribution in Diliman, Quezon City.

Richard Pittman of the Summer Institute of Linguistics headed a delegation from that institute which submitted the seventh semi-annual report of that entity.

The report features as intensive study of oral Tagalog which was worked out by Elmer Wolfenden of that institute in cooperation with the staff of the Institution of National Language, a volume of linguistic studies on minor Philippine dialects which is to be published by the University of Sydney, Australia, and literacy materials published by the institute during the last six months.

During the call, a member of the group, Benjamin Needham, presented a large box containing high quality Key West, Florida, yams, which he successfully produced in Bukidnon.

A large delegation of secondary school principals, headed by Victor Hernandez, president of the National Secondary Principals Association, requested the implementation of R.A. 842, adjusting salaries of secondary school principals and teachers. They also requested that the amount of P3,000,000 be included in the budget of the next fiscal year for salary increases of secondary school principals and teachers. Among those who accompanied the delegation were Manila Superintendent of City Schools Antonio Maceda; Jose Reyes, president of secondary school principals seminar at Bayambang, Pangasinan; and Ricardo Castro, secretary of the Philippine Public School Teachers Association.

Secretary De Leon received callers from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

THE President today instructed the Philippines bases negotiation panel to remove from its agenda the item dealing with the U.S. transfer of base land titles to the Philippines. This matter, the President pointed out, was considered settled.

Agreement between the two governments had been formally declared in Magsaysay-Nixon statement of July 4, and had since been confirmed by public statements of the late Ambassador Nufer and Karl Bendetsen, the President added.

November 27.—THE President conferred this morning with GSIS General Manager Rodolfo P. Andal and told him to release P1.5 million for the construction of the hydroelectric plant in Valencia, Negros Oriental. The construction of this plant had been announced by the President in his trip to Negros Oriental last Saturday.

Andal said that he was ready with the money and that he would order the transfer of the sum to the National Power Corporation tomorrow so that the construction could start immediately.

THE President devoted most of his time this day to the study of pending state papers. For the second consecutive day he requested Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon to receive the presidential callers.

Among the callers received by Secretary De Leon was a big group of members of the Association of Jeepney Operators and Drivers of the Philippines which petitioned that:

- (1) The boundary system be continued;
- (2) A fixed tax be levied on the operators instead of the present rate plus two per cent the income;
- (3) The NAMARCO be allowed to import spare parts because the business is controlled by aliens and because 500,000 people are reportedly earning their livelihood through jeepney transportation;
- (4) They be given loans from local banks because they are being victimized by loan sharks charging between 36 and 40 per cent interests; and
- (5) The traffic court be made to function like a true court of justice.

Concerning the last request, Rep. Augusto Francisco of Manila, who accompanied the jeepney drivers and operators, said that the traffic court was not a court but a fund collecting agency of the government. Copies of the petition were sent immediately by Secretary De Leon to the Secretary of Finance and the Secretary of Public Works and Communications for study and recommendation.

Representative Angel Castaño of Manila was also with the operators who were headed by Antonio Merida.

Meanwhile, Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno called at Malacañang and presented to Francis Cardinal Spellman the commemorative stamp on the occasion of the Second National Eucharistic Congress. The stamp, which will be issued tomorrow, bears the following words: "Centenary of the Sacred Heart of Jesus."

Present when the stamp was presented by Secretary Moreno to Cardinal Spellman were Undersecretary Rafael Contreras, Director of Posts Felipe Cuaderno, Assistant Director Enrico Palomar, Don Jesus Cacho, Manuel J. Romero, Mons. John Fleming, and Fr. Pedro Verceles, S. J.

The callers received by Secretary De Leon consisted mostly of provincial delegations accompanied by their respective local executives.

Rep. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing accompanied a group of parish priests from the second district of Capiz who paid a courtesy call.

Governor Esmeraldo Eco accompanied a delegation from Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte. Headed by Mayor Marciano Linis, the delegation requested aid for repairs of public buildings which had been destroyed by the recent typhoon.

Representative Leon Guinto, Jr., accompanied a delegation from Lopez, Quezon. The delegation consisted of public school teachers and was headed by Pedro Requina, principal of the Lopez Elementary School. They requested the implementation of Republic Act 312, providing for the increase of minimum salaries for public school teachers.

James Stewart, director of operations of the Asia Foundation, paid a courtesy call following his arrival in Manila last week in the course of his observation tour in Far Eastern cities. He was accompanied to Malacañang by Dr. Albert Wilson, representative of the foundation in the Philippines, and Mariano N. Querol, also of that office.

A group of steel manufacturers headed by Jose P. Marcelo requested an amendment of a Cabinet decision banning exportation of scrap iron to permit local steel manufacturers to buy scrap iron at world market price. They were accompanied by Acting Speaker Daniel Romualdez.

Representative Gaudencio Abordo of Palawan accompanied members of the Inter-Island Deep Sea Fishing Association who invited the President to be their guest during the oath-taking ceremonies of the new board members of their association at the Manila Hotel.

Ildefonso Lachenal, president of the association, told Secretary De Leon that the date of the induction ceremonies would be announced later.

Dr. W.C. Fields, head of the department of neurology of the Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, paid a courtesy call. He was accompanied to Malacañang by Rep. Conrado Morente of Midoro Oriental.

Rep. Ignacio Cruz and Governor Vicente de Lara of Misamis Oriental headed a delegation which requested aid for public works projects. Rep. Cruz, who is undergoing a 21-day active duty as a captain in the Armed Forces, was in his military uniform.

Among the last callers was Rep. Jacobo Gonzales of Laguna.

THIS evening President Magsaysay inducted Rep. Eugenio Perez, former speaker of the House of Representatives and now House minority floor leader, as a member of the Council of State at a simple ceremony held at the family dining room in Malacañang.

Acting Speaker Daniel Z. Romualdez and newsmen witnessed the induction ceremony.

Immediately after the induction ceremony, the President issued a press statement lauding the patriotism and statesmanship of the former speaker for having decided to join the Council of State and for having pledged support to the rural development program of the Administration.

After the induction ceremony, the President had dinner with Perez and Romualdez.

November 28.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today told American authorities that the Philippine Government is for the demilitarization of Olongapo and its turnover to the Philippines at the earliest possible time.

The President's statement backs up squarely the stand of the Philippine panel on bases negotiations regarding the matter.

The Chief Executive made this statement in the course of his surprise visit to Olongapo this morning during which he visited military installations in the area and saw sites where improvements will be made in accordance with the development plan envisioned for the town by the U. S. Government.

In the course of his Olongapo tour, President Magsaysay dropped in at the conference room of the Subic Naval Base headquarters, where American naval officials explained to him plans for developing Olongapo into a model town.

He said that the plans were good and impressive. However, he pressed on the American officials for the turnover of Olongapo to the Philippine Government at the earliest possible time. He added that this was necessary to avoid possible sources of friction between Filipinos and Americans.

The President left Malacañang at 7 a.m. and motored to the Nichols Air Base, where he and his party took off at 7:50 a.m. for Olongapo, Zambales, landing at Cubi Point airstrip at 8:15a.m.

Those in the President's party were Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez; Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao; Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff; Prof. Enrique M. Fernando; Minister Horace Smith, Karl Bendetsen, USN Admiral Thomas J. Sprague, Col. Alden Sibley, Col. Edward Black, Commander Charles Russell, Commander John Brock, Maj. James Ord, Cols. Nicanor Jimenez, Manuel Salientes, Angel S. Salcedo, and Rigoberto Atienza; Rep. Enrique Corpus; and Acting Press Secretary Guillermo V. Sison, Mayor Benigno Aquino, Jr., and Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo and Maj. Jose Estrella, presidential aides; and Mr. Lang, William Walker, and James Petus, Jr. and Lt. Wilson.

The President was met at the airstrip by naval officials headed by Admirals Wendel Switzer and Glyn Donohue. Also present was Gov. Manuel Barretto of Zambales.

From the airstrip the President motored to the Subic Naval Base headquarters where he was given a 21-gun salute and military honors. Then he went to the conference room where he was given details of the Olongapo development plan.

At 9:55 a.m., the Chief Executive, accompanied by Admiral Switzer and the entourage, motored around the town of Olongapo, stopping at places where improvements will be made by the American Government. On his way back to the naval base, the President stopped for a few minutes to talk to employees of the Delgado Stevedoring Company who are working in the base.

After military hoods and another 21-gun salute had been rendered at the base headquarters, the President motored to the airstrip and took off at 11:20 a.m., arriving in Manila at 11:45 a.m.

President Magsaysay, who emplaned for Olongapo this morning, requested Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia to preside over the Cabinet meeting which lasted from 10:30 to 12 noon.

THE expansion of the choice of fellows and scholars for scholarships abroad to include private individuals and institutions was decided by the Cabinet at its meeting today.

A committee was created by the Cabinet to study with officials of the International Cooperation Administration the feasibility of the scholarship expansion and the possibility of dovetailing the plan with the Administration's rural community development program. The step was taken to take full advantage of scholarship offers from the Colombo Plan, the United Nations, the ICA, and other agencies. As planned, the Government will accept all offers of

scholarship from the different foreign sources and will channel or apportion some of them to private individuals and institutions.

The committee created to study ways and means of implementing the plan is composed of Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently foreign affairs secretary, chairman, and Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, and NEC Director Cornelio Crucillo, members.

The Cabinet pointed out that there was a desire to include private individuals and institutions in the scholarship grants so that not only government officials and employees but also other deserving persons can take advantage of the different scholarships.

Toward the end of the meeting, the Cabinet approved the request of prospective bidders on the sale of the government cement plant in Bacnotan, La Union, to extend the period for submission of bids from December 22, 1956, to January 22, 1957. Amendments to the terms of the bidding as also proposed by the prospective bidders were not, however, acted upon by the Cabinet. The Vice-President decided to refer the proposed amendments to Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason for further study.

THE President this evening gave a state dinner in honor of His Eminence, Francis Cardinal Spellman, archbishop on New York and papal legate to the Second National Eucharistic Congress, at the Malacañang banquet hall.

The guest list follows:

Chief Justice Ricardo Paras, Acting Speaker Daniel Z. Romualdez, Apostolic Nuncio Egidio Vagnozzi, British Ambassador George Lisle Clutton, Italian Ambassador Benedetto d'Acunzo, French Ambassador Georges Cattand, Minister Horace Smith (charge d'affaires of the U. S. Embassy), Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma;

Sen. Mariano Jesus Cuenco, Sen. Francisco Rodrigo, Sen. Decoroso Rosales, Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez, Rep. Miguel Cuenco, Karl R. Bendetsen, Justice Sabino Padilla, Justice Alejo Labrador, Justice Pastor M. Endencia, Undersecretary Raul S. Manglapus, Most Rev. Bishop Carlo Melkebeke, (apostolic visitor or Singapore); Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph Caprio, (apostolic visitor, Saigon), Rt. Rev. Msgr. Aloysius Dineen, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Richard Pigott, Rt. Rev. Msgr. John Fleming, His Excellency Marquis George MacDonald;

Very Rev. Msgr. Alfredo Poledrini, Very Rev. Msgr. Oscar L. Calvo, Most Rev. Rufino J. Santos, Most Rev. Julio R. Rosales, Most Rev. Santiago C. Sancho, Most Rev. James T. G. Hayes, Most Rev. Jose Ma. Cuenco, Most Rev. Juan C. Sison, Most Rev. Alejandro Olalia, Most Rev. Lino Gonzaga, Most Rev. Mariano A. Madriaga, Most Rev. William Brasseur, Most Rev. Vicente P. Reyes, Most Rev. Luis del Rosario, Most Rev. Peregrin de la Fuente, Most Rev. Flaviano B. Ariola, Most Rev. Teopisto Alberto, Most Rev. Antonio Frondosa;

Most Rev. Gerardo Mongeau, Most Rev. William Joseph Duschak, Rev. Fr. Henry W. Greer, Rev. Fr. Ciceron Tumbocon, Rev. Fr. Jesus Castañon, Brother Gabriel of De La Salle College, Rev. Leo A. Cullum, Dr. Augusto J. D. Cortés, Dr. Jose Ma. Hernandez, Dr. Ramon Campos, Pablo Lorenzo, Acting Press Secretary Guillermo V. Sison, Manuel G. Zamora, Malacañang Protocol Officer, and Col. Emilio Borromeo, presidential aide.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today conferred on Cardinal Spellman the Raja of the Order of Sikatuna award for the "extraordinary services rendered by His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman to the cause of peace and freedom based on the Godlike dignity of the human person and for the invaluable service he zealously pursued in order to translate American friendship for the Filipino people in terms of their welfare and security."

The conferment of the medal on Cardinal Spellman was held at the state dinner given by the President in honor of the Cardinal in Malacañang. The citation was read by Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Raul Manglapus.

November 29.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today directed Customs Commissioner Manuel P. Manahan to look into reports that PHILCOA General Manager Benjamin Silvosa had allegedly made improper purchases in Sandakan, North Borneo.

The President gave this directive upon receiving reports on the matter. He told Commissioner Manahan to submit his findings Saturday.

ABOUT noon the President motored to the National Press Club to view the body of the late Anacleto Benavides, former *Manila Chronicle* editor, which lie in state at the NPC Deck.

The President condoled with the widow, Mrs. Enriqueta Benavides, and her two daughters, Dolly and Nene. He then went beside the bier to view the body.

The Chief Executive was met at the NPC building by Jose D. Aspiras, president of the National Press Club.

From the deck the President visited the different offices of the building, including that of the NPC officials, the dining hall, the library, and the green room. He conversed with newspapermen who were present at the building.

After about an hour in the Press Club building, the President motored to Peñafrancia, Paco, to visit Sen. Jose P. Laurel, who was indisposed. The visit lasted about 45 minutes. He returned to Malacañang about 2 p.m.

The President was accompanied by Acting Press Secretary Guillermo V. Sison, Mayor Benigno Aquino, Jr., and Maj. Jose Estrella, presidential aide.

VICE-PRESIDENT Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently foreign affairs secretary, received callers at Malacañang this morning on behalf of President Magsaysay, who had to attend to more pressing matters which needed his personal attention.

A delegation from the Tatalon Tenants' Association in Quezon City, headed by Antinidoro Sison, sought the expropriation of a 15-hectare residential land to avoid the ejectment of some 200 families living in the area by its private owner.

Another delegation from the Villaba Afable Tenant's Association headed by its president, Juan R. Antonio, likewise requested the acquisitions by the government of a two-hectare residential lot in Sagad, Pasig, Rizal, and its subdivision and distribution to some 38 families who had been living in the place for periods ranging from 10 to 30 years.

The Vice-President received callers at the President's study from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Most of the visitors were delegations from the provinces which sought financial aid for various public improvement projects in their respective localities.

Such delegations were those from Lanao headed by Gov. Salvador Lluch and Iligan City Mayor Mariano Ll. Badolles; from Bataan headed by Mayors Julian Ramos of Morong, Angel del Rosario of Bagac, Guillermo Arcenas of Hermosa, and Domingo Perena of Limay; from Nueva Ecija, led by Mayors Alfredo Briones of Lupao and Mariano Sapla of Talugtog; from Capiz, headed by Mayors Conrado Salcedo of Dumalog, Angel Salcedo of Dumarán, and Vicente Fabuna of Cuartero; from Taguig, Rizal, headed by Mayor Minico C. Tanyag; from Isabela, headed by Mayor Leocadio Ignacio of Malig and Councilor Fernando Castillo of Santiago; from San Juan, Rizal led by Mayor Nicanor Ibuna; from Dolores, Quezon, headed by Mayor Jose Cristeto Generoso; from Mangatarem, Pangasinan headed by Mayor Jose Alamillo; and from Atimonan, Quezon, headed by Mayor Francisco Enriquez.

Other callers included Reps. Bartolome Cabangbang of Bohol and Jose R. Nuguid of Bataan.

THIS afternoon the President made a surprise visit to the Veterans Memorial Hospital in Hilaga Ave., Quezon City. In a talk with Col. Roman Salacup and the patients, the President said that there could be no discipline among the patients if there was no discipline among the doctors, nurses, and members of the hospital staff.

The Chief Executive said that the patients should be treated with human understanding and sympathy, after hearing complaints from the patients that some doctors and nurses were not doing their job well. He told Col. Salacup to remove erring doctors, nurses, on any, member of the hospital and to maintain discipline among the patients.

The President ordered Col. Salacup, director of the Veterans Memorial Hospital, to be firm and to maintain discipline among the members of the hospital staff and the patients.

Arriving at the hospital before 5 p.m., there President was met by Col. Salacup, Col. Carlos Vergel de Dios, Dr. Ildefonso Gomez, and Ben Florentino, spokesman for the patients. The President was taken to the hospital theater where the patients were enjoying a stage show sponsored by the Armed Forces. The President ascended the stage and talked to the patients.

Telling Col. Salacup to enforce discipline in the hospital, the President said that doctors and nurses should be sympathetic to the problems of the patients. On the other hand, the Chief Executive told the patients that, if they were already well, they should go home because of the many other veterans seeking admission to the hospital.

He counseled the members of the hospital staff and the patients not to be abusive but to cooperate with each other for the welfare of all concerned. "Doctors and nurses should attend promptly to the patients in accordance with their professional creed," he pointed out. He said he was willing to listen to any complaint.

The President also instructed Col. Salacup to investigate individually the complaints aired by the patients in their 30-minute talk with the Chief Executive. "Play no favorites and let there not be any whitewash. I want a report of the investigations and the action taken as soon as possible," the President said.

The President assured the patients that he was channeling some of the equipment from the Japanese reparations to the proposed complete rehabilitation section of the Veterans Memorial Hospital. The equipment will include machinery for cottage industries. The complete rehabilitation section of the hospital was designed to prepare the disabled veterans for some kind of work or livelihood as soon as they are discharged from the hospital.

Among the complaints aired by the patients were lack of nurses and janitors for the 600 patients, lack of understanding by some doctors and nurses, inefficiency of some doctors and nurses, lack of medicine, and insufficiency of food served.

The President was taken to the kitchen by Col. Salacup and was shown the menu served to the patients for supper. Col. Salacup explained that the food served was being prepared by a dietician who knows what to give to the various patients who are suffering from different diseases.

The patients, particularly Alex Mendoza, Rodolfo Guanzon, and Benjamin Castro, complained that veterans with service-connected disability found it difficult to seek admission into the hospital. The President directed Col. Salacup to look into this matter. He said that patients with previous hospital records should not have difficulty in seeking admission into the hospital.

The President left the hospital at 5:30 p.m. He was accompanied by Maj. Estrella, presidential aide.

November 30.—THE President this morning received in his study room Henry J. Clay and Mathew McCarthy, member of the U. S. Foreign Claims Commission and New York attorney for the Philippine National Bank, respectively, who paid a courtesy call. They were accompanied by Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon and Mariano Laurel, both members of the PNB board of directors.

Clay arrived in Manila recently in the course of an Asian fact-finding tour in order to discuss war claims with banking and religious authorities in some Asian countries who have unsettled war claims with the United States Government.

During the call, the Chief Executive was informed by Clay that claims of local banks had reached its final processing stage and that pending claims of religious groups would be taken up soon.

The President told Clay he was glad that these claims could be settled because they may help stabilize the country's economy.

Another visitor who paid a courtesy call was Maj. Gen. Daniel Spry, visiting Boy Scouts international director. Accompanied by local Boy Scouts officials, Spry informed the President that plans were now underway to construct a Boy Scout center in Manila. He said other improvements which would boost the Boy Scout movement in the Philippines would be made.

The Boy Scouts officials who accompanied Spry to Malacañang were Mariano de los Santos, Babriel Daza, Fernando E. V. Sison, Jose Panlilio, Godofredo Neric, Fernando Pimentel, and Guillermo Padolina.

Sen. Decoroso Rosales called to discuss with the President the possibilities of constructing an airport in Samar.

Agriculture Undersecretary Jaime Ferrer accompanied NARRA Assistant General Manager Raoul Beloso. They consulted the President on matters regarding the National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration.

Other callers included Col. Cornelio Bondad, 3rd Military Area commander, and Tereso Dumon, a Cebu businessman. The Chief Executive received his visitors from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay led the nation in the observance of Bonifacio Day this day by stressing the greater need, not only of safeguarding the Freedom to which Bonifacio had dedicated his talents and for which he had laid down his life, but also in giving it living substance.

In a message to the nation, the President said that "We look to Bonifacio to inspire us, as we courageously stand fast in upholding our liberties."

He paid tribute to Bonifacio as "the dynamic leader in our liberation struggle."

The full text of the President's Bonifacio Day message follows:

"The Filipino people honor Andres Bonifacio, the Great Plebian, as the dynamic leader in our liberation struggle. Although the boon of Freedom to which he dedicated his talents and for which he laid down his life has been won, there is the greater need not only of safeguarding that Freedom for all time but in giving it living substance.

"We look to Bonifacio to inspire us as we courageously stand fast in upholding our liberties."

AFTER receiving his callers, the President motored to the Veterans Memorial Hospital on Hilaga Avenue, Quezon City, on another surprise visit to check on the kind of food the patients were being served.

Accompanied by his junior aide, Lt. Leopoldo Regis, the President arrived at the VMH about 11:45 a.m., when the patients were starting to eat their lunch. He was met by Col. Roman Salacup, director of the hospital.

The President went direct to the dining room. He observed that the patients were being served fried chicken, pork *sarciado*, fish, vegetables, and apples. He said that it was good food. In his visit yesterday, one of the complaints of the patients was insufficiency of food served to them.

The President left the hospital at 12:15 p.m.

Source: **Supreme Court Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Official Month in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52 (16), dlvii-dlxxxi.

Official Month in Review: December 1 – December 15, 1956

December 1.—FOR breakfast the President had Col. Cornelio Bondad, 3rd Military Area commander, and Tereso Dumon, a Cebu businessman, this morning. It was the second call in two days on the President of both Col. Bondad and Dumon.

Col. Bondad appraised the President of the peace-and-order situation within the 3rd MA. The Chief Executive praised the Colonel for the way he had performed his duties to prevent the outbreak of violence or lawlessness in the Visayas.

After the breakfast the President received Gov. Valeriano Gatuslao of Negros Occidental, who took up matters regarding his province.

Later the President conferred with Col. Salvador Villa, Manila Railroad Company general manager.

The President retired to his bedroom to resume poring over pending state papers after conferring with Villa. The President enjoyed comparative quiet the rest of the day.

December 2.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning, as a Catholic, heard the solemn pontifical high mass at the Independence Memorial Grandstand on the Luneta and read the “Act Consecration of Catholics of the Philippines to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.”

The mass highlighted the fifth and closing day of the Second National Eucharistic Congress held in Manila. The Act of Consecration, which was read by the President, was participated in by the faithful which made the response.

The mass was officiated by His Eminence, Francis Cardinal Spellman, papal legate. President and Mrs. Magsaysay, Vice-President and Mr. Carlos P. Garcia, and other high government officials received Holy Communion from Cardinal Spellman.

Aside from the Catholic hierarchy, high government officials were present at the mass. The faithful who gathered in front of and beyond the grandstand were estimated at over 700,000.

After the mass President Magsaysay and Cardinal Spellman descended together from the altar toward their respective cars.

The President and the First Lady Malacañang at 6:20 a.m., accompanied by Lt. Col. Emilio Borromeo and Lt. Leopoldo Regis, presidential aides, and returned to Malacañang at 8:25 a.m.

THE President conferred with ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo, who proposed the use of water-marked cigarette paper as a measure against the non-payment or under-payment of specific taxes by certain cigarette manufacturers.

As explained by Mondoñedo, the use of water-marked cigarette paper, to be exclusively purchased from the government and properly inventoried or accounted for, will eliminate the illegal manufacturer of cigarettes and save the government the loss of millions of pesos.

Mondoñedo said the taxes on cigarettes amount to P2.50 per thousand sticks of the native brand and P8 to P12 per thousand sticks of the aromatic or Virginia cigarettes.

Mondoñedo also reported to the President that the ACCFA had filed civil and criminal suits against David de Chupa, former manager of the Pavia (Iloilo) FACOMA, illegal withdrawal from the cooperative warehouse of more than P100,000 worth of palay without first liquidating with or paying the ACCFA the commodity loan secured by the Pavia FACOMA.

The ACCFA chief told the President that he had relieved Ramon Panique, ACCFA provincial director of Iloilo, and ordered an investigation on how the withdrawal of such a large quantity of palay was effected without payment.

Mondoñedo said prosecution to the full extent of the law would be undertaken against all those who take advantage of the small farmers and the ACCFA. "ACCFA's credit," he stressed, "must be safeguarded by the prosecution and all persons who try to make a fast peso out of its program in the rural areas should be punished."

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today directed Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno to get ready with the machinery to receive and handle the reparations materials which are arriving soon from Japan. It had been announced earlier that the first shipment of 20,000 tons of cement would arrive within this month.

The President received a radiogram yesterday from Minister Caesar Lanuza, chief of the Philippine Reparations Mission in Tokyo, with the information that he had already signed the reparations agreement scheduled for the first year. Lanuza said in his cable that bids for cement had been opened yesterday and that bids would be opened every day thereafter until December 5. He added that the following items would be bidden on: reinforcing bars, GI sheets, dump trucks, and GI pipes fittings.

As these materials are coming soon to the Philippines and as their use will be supervised by the Department of Public Works and Communications, the President alerted Secretary Moreno to get ready with the machinery to handle the materials.

December 3.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning designated a three-man committee to find ways and means of expanding non-agricultural cooperatives all over the country to help low-salaried employees and industrial workers.

The proposed expansion of the non-agricultural cooperatives will be conducted on a nation-wide basis and will be along the same line as the ACCFA. Low-salaried employees and industrial workers and laborers will get the full benefit from the projected expansion.

The committee, composed of Dr. Amando Dalisay, chairman, and Santiago Manongdo and Dr. Rufino Abriol, members, was instructed by the President to start the study and submit a report as soon as possible.

The project as discussed by the President with officers and members of the National Association of Credit Unions in the Philippines, Inc., who called at Malacañang. The officers and members of the association were headed by Floro Santos, Sr., president; Dr. Enrique Ochoa, vice-president; Capt. Ernesto Jimenez, secretary; Dr. Abriol, treasurer; and Fabian E. Sta. Ana, auditor.

After talking to the members of the association, the President received a three-man goodwill mission from Guatemala. The mission was composed of the minister of education of Guatemala, Dr. Enrique Quiñones; Dr. Jose Luis Mendoza; president of the International Organizations of Guatemala and Adolfo Orantes Molina, dean of the Official College of Law of Guatemala. The Guatemalan officials were accompanied by Dean Leoncio Monzon of the MLQ Educational Institutions, who is also the honorary consul of Guatemala to the Philippines.

The officers of the Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers also called on the President and extended their technical know-how to the government. They petitioned that they be allowed to be represented in government corporations, including the National Economic Council and the Reparations Commission. The President said that he would give a serious study to their offer and thanked them for the civic-mindedness in offering their services to the government. Those who headed the delegation were Eligio J. Tavanlar, Victor Lim, and Luis Flores.

On a different mission, Tavanlar, who is a consultant and a representative for Asia of the World Veterans Federation in Paris, France, saw the President with PCAC Chairman Frisco San Juan and requested the approval of the President to invite the World Veterans Federation to hold its next council meeting in Manila. Tavanlar and San Juan also informed the President that the Filipino veterans who had settled in government settlement areas, were in need of seeds and work animals.

Officers of the Federation of Credit Unions of the Philippines also saw the President and thanked him for having declared November 1, 1956, as a Credit Union Day. They also informed the President that they were planning to merge into one group with the National Association of Credit Unions in the Philippines, Inc. Cirilo Honorio, president of the federation, headed the group.

Former Gov. Jose Lingad of Pampanga headed a group of veterans from his province. The veterans reiterated their pledge of loyalty to the Chief Executive and assured him of their support.

Hilarion Henares, Sr., and his son, Hilarion, Jr., proprietors of industrial company bearing their name, accompanied some of their technical men and office staff members. They informed the President of the latest toy products being turned out by their factory.

Earlier, the President had breakfast with Henry J. Clay, member of the United States Foreign Claims Commission, and Matthew McCarthy, lawyer of the Philippine National Bank in New York, Philippine officials present at the breakfast were Secretary of Finance Jaime Hernandez, Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon, Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, Sen. Francisco Delgado, Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, and PNB Director Mariano Laurel.

Other callers of the President included Sen. Francisco Rodrigo, Rep. Felipe Garduque of Cagayan, Govs. Conrado Estrella of Pangasinan and Juan Frivaldo of Sorsogon, Archbishop Jose Ma. Cuenco of Iloilo and former Iloilo City Mayor Vicente Arenas, Bohol MPM Coordinator Ramon Gaviola, and Zoilo Dejaresco, *Bohol Chronicle* editor.

THE President today asked the National Economic Council to study the sale of the Philippine world quota of sugar by barter, either by cash payment of a portion of it and the rest by barter, or by barter of the entire quota.

The President sent this inquiry to the NEC following a request asking the he permit the sale of the Philippine world quota of sugar by barter, as it might be difficult to sell it before the end of this year, the deadline for the disposal of the quota in the world market.

In his letter to the NEC, the President said he did not think that the sale in the United States of this sugar, or any portion of it, by barter would be allowed because of the fact that the Philippine quota in that country was fixed and any sugar sold there by barter would naturally diminish the total amount which the Philippines could sell in that country for dollars.

The President also issued earlier this day the following message on the death of the late Jose Gil, former commissioner of civil service.

“The country has lost a dedicated public servant and an exemplary citizen in the death of Commissioner Jose Gil. His integrity, strength of character, and industry have won for him the respect and admiration of all. It is for this reason that he has strengthened the faith of the people in our civil service and has endeared himself to those who have known him. I join the country in mourning his death.”

IN the afternoon the President received the 50-member Westminster Choir who paid their respects to the Chief Executive.

The group was headed by Dr. John Finnley Williamson and accompanied to Malacañang by Alfredo Lozano, impresario, who was responsible for the coming over to the Philippines of the choir to give performances. Vicente F. Barranco of the *Manila Times* was also with the group.

The President received the group at his study room and conversed with them for about 30 minutes. The choir members listened attentively, as the President recalled to them the unorthodox methods he had used in combating communism during his time as defense secretary.

Dr. Williamson then told the President that the choir members wanted to sing for the Chief Executive. With Williamson conducting, the choir sang *Swing Along*, *Old Black Joe*, and *Ezekiel Saw the Wheel*.

The President praised the choir for its exquisite rendition of the pieces. He said that he was glad it would perform for Filipino audiences. He added that *Old Black Joe* was one of the songs he learned while he was young. He said that he is very fond of music and that he had studied violin for a year.

The President entertained the choir with a *merienda*.

December 4.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning had breakfast with Samuel Waugh and Walter Sauer, president and executive vice-president, respectively, of the Import-Export Bank, who called at Malacañang to pay their respects following their recent arrival in Manila in the course of a tour of Asian countries.

Also present at breakfast were Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, RFC Chairman Eduardo Romualdez, Horace Smith and Charles Hodge, U.S. Embassy charge d'affaires and economic counselor, respectively, and Col. Harry Brenn, chief of the ICA.

After breakfast, the President proceeded to his study and started receiving scheduled callers.

Sen. Quintin Paredes, who has returned from Bangkok, Thailand, where he had attended the Interparliamentary Union Conference, called to pay his respects. In the course of his call, Paredes reiterated his pledge of support to the President and vehemently denied press reports identifying the senator with a political group formed supposedly to oppose President Magsaysay's bid for reelection.

Members of a committee on surveying and mapping by aerial photogrammetry formed last March by the secretary of agriculture and natural resources called to furnish the President with a copy of their report on the proposed photogrammetric survey of the Philippines.

The committee informed the Chief Executive that the proposed survey project would greatly intensify agricultural production, furnish basic data needed in industrial development, accelerate the construction of irrigation systems, feeder roads, artesian wells, flood control hydroelectric power projects, cadastral surveys, evaluation of mineral resources, and other important projects of the Administration.

During the call, the President administered the oaths to newly-elected officers of the Philippine Society of Photogrammetry headed by Nicanor G. Jorge. Others in the group included Manuel Vergel, president of the society for the geodetic engineers; Dominador Rosell, vice-president of the surveyors association; Pablo Capistrano, vice-president of the geological society; and Ricardo Cruz and Francisco Raymundo.

Rep. Angel M. Castaño of Manila called to make arrangements for the laying of the cornerstone of the projected Tondo general hospital to be erected on North Bay Boulevard.

The Chief Executive started receiving callers about 9 a.m. At 11 a.m., he asked Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently foreign affairs secretary, to receive the rest of the visitors on his behalf while he attended to some important matters which needed his immediate attention. Callers consisted mostly of delegations from the provinces which sought assistance for their respective localities.

Such delegations were those from Capiz, headed by Mayors Andres Quintin of Dao, Angel Salcedo of Dumarao, Conrado Salcedo of Dimalag, Pedro Exmundo of Tapaz, and Vicente Fabuna of Quatero; from Baroy, Lanao, headed by Mayor Geronimo Marabe; from Pagadian, Zamboanga del Norte, headed by Mayor Bernabe Savillano; from Misamis Oriental, headed by Gov. Vicente de Lara and City Mayor Justiniano Borja of Cagayan de Oro City; from Iloilo, headed by Gov. Mariano Peñaflorida, Reps. Pedro Trono and Ricardo Y. Ladrado, and Mayors Alfonso Espino of Dingle, Jose Bañes of Batad, and Antonio Ortiz of Nueva Valencia; from Cebu, headed by Sen. Mariano

J. Cuenco; from Camarines Norte, led by Gov. Esmeraldo Eco; and from Manaoag, Pangasinan, headed by Mayor Bernardo Aquino.

Individual callers included Sen. Jose C. Zulueta; Reps. Ignacio Cruz of Misamis Oriental, Augusto Francisco of Manila, Vicente L. Peralta of Sorsogon, Domingo Veloso and Francisco Pajao of Leyte, Pio Duran of Albay, Ramon Durano and Manuel Zosa of Cebu, Wenceslao Lagumbay of Laguna, Fernando Pajarillo of Camarines Norte; Govs. Salvador Lluch of Lanao, Juan Frivaldo of Sorsogon, and Dominador Chipeco of Laguna; and Gerald Wilkinson.

About 12:30 p.m., the Vice-President went down to the social hall where he received a delegation of 300 workers of the strike-bound Coca-Cola plant and warehouses in San Fernando, La Union; Urdaneta and Dagupan, Pangasinan; Baguio City; Vigan and Candon, Ilocos Sur; and Laoag, Ilocos Norte.

Accompanied by Felix R. Cruz, vice-president of the Philippine Association of Free Labor Unions (PAFLU), the group sought the President's intervention so as to stop oppressive measures allegedly taken by the management against the striking workers, particularly the reported use of Constabulary soldiers to defeat the purpose of their strike. The Vice-President promised to bring the matter to the attention of the President right away.

THE President today announced through Sofronio Quimson, technical assistant on civil affairs, that no definite date has as yet been fixed for the projected convention of the league of provincial governors and city mayors that such convention would be held in January.

December 5.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today inducted the newly elected officials of the Philippine Chamber of Industries who pledged their cooperation and support to the economic development program of the Administration.

The officials of the PCI also invited the President to attend their first meeting sometime in January. Inducted by the President were Roberto Villanueva, president; Fernando E.V. Sison vice-president; Teofilo Reyes Jr., 2nd vice-president; J. N. Morales, director-treasurer; Manuel Felizardo, director; Don Carlos Rivilla, director; Hilarion Henares, Jr., director; Jovino S. Lorenzo, director; Dalmacio Suaco, director; Felix Lirag, director; and A. B. Isip, executive secretary.

Before the induction, the President received Rev. J. F. Simpson, president of the Dakota Conference of the Western Methodist Church comprising the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming. Rev. Simpson paid a courtesy call on the President in the course of his visit here.

Other callers of the President before he presided over the regular Cabinet meeting were Gov. Esmeraldo Eco of Camarines Norte and his delegation and Gov. Alejandro Almendras of Davao.

As it was a Cabinet meeting day, the President received only a few callers who had been scheduled to see him.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay as the Cabinet meeting this morning approved broad lines of policy in the administration of labor, for the guidance and information of all labor services of the national government for the fiscal year 1957-1958. The policy was recommended by the Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevos.

As outlined, the policy covers: (1) protection of wage earners and salaried; (2) promotion of stable labor-management relations; (3) organization and development of the nation's man power resources; and (4) other coordinate activities.

Upon recommendation of Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently foreign affairs secretary, the Cabinet authorized Philippine participation in the Symposium on Tropical Cyclones to be held from December 10 to 14, 1956, in Brisbane, Australia. Jesus Flores of the Weather Bureau was designated as the Philippine representative to the conference.

With regard to the offer of five two-month fellowships in Great Britain and of 30 German scholarships, 15 for students in technological fields and 15 for industrial trainee, the Cabinet decided that these be offered to non-government entities, preferably to private educational institutions. The offer will be coursed through the Bureau of Private Schools.

The Cabinet also authorized the additional extension of the ICAO fellowship in the United States of LCdr. Marcelino S. Tabin of the Bureau of Coast and Geodetic Survey for two more months but not beyond January 1957.

The Cabinet also authorized Mrs. Angelita R. Calalo, librarian of the Sampaloc Public Library to go on one-year study leave in the United States to enable her to take courses leading to the degree of master of arts in library science at the Carnegie Library School, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, on condition that this leave shall be without pay and shall not involve any dollar allocation.

The Cabinet met about 10:45 a.m. and adjourned at 1 p.m. The meeting was held at the family dining room.

December 6.—EARLY this morning, the President received members of a U.S. Senate technical committee who called at Malacañang to pay their respects following their arrival in Manila last Tuesday in the course of a survey tour of foreign aid countries in the Far East.

The three-man committee is composed of Dr. John A Hannah, chairman. Dr. Howard Piquet, and Dr. Emory Morris. They were accompanied to Malacañang by Horace Smith and Virgil Van Street, charge d'affaires and legal counsel, respectively, of the U. S. Embassy in Manila, and Col. Harry Brenn, head of the local ICA office.

AS the President was busy this morning attending to important state matters which needed his immediate attention, he designated Secretary Fortunato de Leon to receive his scheduled callers. Most of the delegations sought financial aid for the construction of public improvements in their respective localities.

Such delegations included those from Misamis Oddicental headed by Gov. Diego Ty Deling; from M'lang, Cotabato, led by Councilor Numeriano Cadigal; from Camarines Sur, headed by Acting Gov. Jack Arroyo and Mayors Paulino Parro of Bula and Luis Macandog of Pili; from Bataan, headed by Mayors Federico Muli of Dinalupihan and Jose Advincula of Mariveles; from Nueva Ecija, led by Mayors Bernardo Briones of Lupao and Mariano Sapla Talugtog; and from Solsona, Ilocos Norte, headed by Mayor Antonio Gamal.

Officers and members of the National Legislative Council of the Philippine Government Employees' Association who had been elected at the national PGEA meeting last November 11, called to reiterate their loyalty to the President. During their call, the council was inducted to office by Secretary De Leon.

Those inducted were Pedro de Guzman, Jr., council president; Gregorio Limjoco, vice-president; Alfonso Gregorio, secretary; Magdalena Tuazon, treasurer; Vicente Mercado, auditor; Domingo de Vera Bienvenido Olarte, Agustin Lachica, Mariano Ledesma, Emilio Asistores, Marcelo C. Banog, Artemio Gesmundo, Pedro M. Hernandez, Felix Ignacio, Maximino Lopez, Francisco Mancao, Jose Manglicmot, Marcelo Quiroz, Lorenzo J. Samonte and Amado Tolentino.

Individual callers at Malacañang this morning included Sens. Jose C. Zulueta, Roseller T. Lim, and Francisco Rodrigo; and Reps. Leonardo Perez of Nueva Vizcaya and Jacobo Gonzales of Laguna.

A large delegation of government and FACOMA officials representing eight Northern Luzon provinces called at Malacañang this morning to urge President Magsaysay to refrain from selling the Cebu Portland Cement factory in Bacnotan, La Union, to prevent the plant from falling into alien hands.

Through resolutions addressed to the President by provincial boards and municipal councils of various provinces, the delegation claimed that the plant was realizing an annual net profit of P2.5 million and that it would be for the public good for the government to continue operating it.

The delegation urged the administration to exempt the plant from its policy of transferring its business enterprises into private hands, as cement is a critical item during this period of reconstruction. The group said that cement would also be need in the government's vast program of road building, irrigation projects, and providing low-salaried workers with low-cost homes.

Headed by three congressmen, three provincial governors, 50 municipal mayors, and about 80 FACOMA presidents, the delegation requested that if the government was really decided on disposing of the plant, the sale should be postponed and the FACOMAs should be given preference to acquire the plant through negotiated sale.

Executive Secretary De Leon, who received callers on behalf of the President, promised to bring their petitions to the attention of the Chief Executive as soon as possible.

The delegation included Reps. Manuel Cases of La Union, Ferdinand Marcos of Ilocos Norte, and Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur; Govs. Bernardo Gapuz of La Union, Antonio Raquiza of Ilocos Norte, and Marcelo Adduru of Cagayan; and 50 mayors and 80 FACOMA heads from Tarlac, Pangasinan, La Union, Ilocos Sur, Abra, Ilocos Norte, Cagayan, and Isabela.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today directed members of his Cabinet to prepare at the earliest possible time drafts of important bills affecting their respective departments. After the drafts have been thoroughly studied, they will be caused to be transmitted to Congress.

The President said that he would confer with Acting Speaker Daniel Romualdez and other Congress leaders Tuesday morning, December 11, to map out legislative program for the next session of congress when it opens in January 1957. In a separate meeting which will be held later, the President will confer with Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., and other Senate leaders.

December 7.—THIS morning President Magsaysay had breakfast with Christian Roesholm, R.J. and Monical, and J.P. Roxas, Caltex (Philippines) executives.

Roesholm paid a social call prior to his departure for abroad. He informed the President that Monical would become head f the local Caltex office.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning directed Health Secretary Paulino Garcia to have the former U.S. Army station hospital in Ft. Wm. McKinley inspected by men of the Department of Health for the transfer there of some patients from the National Orthopedic Hospital and the San Lazaro Hospital.

The U.S. hospital in Ft. Mckinley was one of those transferred by the United States Government to the Philippines. The 400-bed hospital will be utilized to house some patients from the NOH and the San Lazaro Hospital in order to relieve congestion in the two hospitals. The President told Secretary Garcia to make plans for the transfer of the patients as soon as possible.

After his conference with the secretary of health, the President motored to the almost completed North General Hospital building in the San Lazaro compound on Rizal Avenue. Secretary Garcia informed him that the P3 million hospital was ready for occupy sometime in January 1957. The President inspected the 400-bed new hospital building and expressed satisfaction. He was accompanied by Secretary Garcia, Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno, and Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona.

During his inspection, the President directed the transfer of the building which formerly housed the National Chest Center, from the San Lazaro compound to the Tala Leprosarium. The transfer was recommended be Secretary Moreno because the building was blocking the front view of the new North General Hospital building.

The President also took advantage of his visit to the San Lazaro compound to inspect the other offices, including the Department of Health and the Bureau of Health. At the skin-and-tumor clinic, the President was informed by Dr.

Rodriguez that local treatment of leprosy was being made successful by the use of sulfone. Dr. Rodriguez, who heads the clinic, said that in a leprosarium in Cebu, one out of every five patients was being discharged owing to the success of the sulfone treatment.

Other offices visited by the President in his one-hour stay in the compound were the National Tuberculosis Center and the Physical Examination Project for government employees.

In San Lazaro the President met Dr. Horace Deline, medical consultant of the local ICA. Secretary Garcia said that the ICA had donated P800.00 worth of hospital equipment for the new North General Hospital building.

The President arrived at San Lazaro 10:30 a.m. and left 11:30 a.m. Among those who conducted him around the new hospital were Francisco Nicolas, contractor of the new NGH building, and Pablo S. Cruz, architect.

Before leaving Malacañang for San Lazaro, the President received Col. Roman Salacup, Veterans Memorial Hospital director, who informed him that regular management-patients and personnel-patients conferences were being held in the VMH to improve relations between the patients and the personnel. The hospital director also said that the complaints of patients against some personnel of the hospital, including doctors and nurses, were being investigated.

Earlier, the President received officials of the NARRA with whom he discussed problems affecting their office. Present at the conference were Mrs. Remedios O. Fortich, V. G. Plantilla, and G. R. Reyes, directors; Financial Assistant A. Lotho; Administrative Officer B. O. Castillo; and D. M. Manlapid, board secretary.

At 4:15 in the afternoon, the President met newsmen at a *merienda* press conference. He announced at the press conference that he was extending for another year the term of Miguel Cuaderno as governor of the Central Bank. Cuaderno's term is expiring on December 12.

This is the second extension given to Cuaderno as CB governor. He was due to retire December 12 last year, after he had celebrated his 65th birthday.

During the Press conference, the President said that:

1. He would submit to the Cabinet on Wednesday the proposal of sugar producers to barter their world market quota;
2. He was retaining Col. Roman Salacup as director of the Veterans Memorial Hospital; and
3. He would intensify the campaign against graft and corruption in the government.

In extending Cuaderno's term for another year, the President said he was satisfied with this work as CB governor. He recalled that Cuaderno had been named chairman of the board of governors of the 60-nation World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

President Magsaysay said that he would take up with the members of his cabinet on Wednesday the proposal of sugar producers to barter their products to countries other than the United States.

He said we would screen carefully the plan, although the National Economic Council and the Central Bank had come out in favor of barter.

The President said he was not in favor of giving too much incentive to the sugar industry, as the Philippines has an "over production" of the commodity.

He said that he might allow the barter of sugar only in the same category as copra, abaca, and other Philippine products which are being shipped to other countries. He pointed out that Thailand was ready to buy Philippine sugar for dollars.

The President said that he had decided to retain Col. Salacup as director of the Veterans Memorial Hospital despite the adverse recommendation of Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao.

He said he had visited the VMH twice and found out that there was lack of discipline among nurses, physicians, as well as among the patients.

Informed by newsmen that Col. Salacup did not attend staff meetings but merely designated Dr. Angangco, the assistant director, the President remarked: "I will fire Angangco."

The President indicated that Angangco had been representing Salacup "too much."

Told by newsmen that Salacup has drawn a curtain between himself and the other physicians and nurses and patients, the President answered. "He will learn."

The President also belied charges of Agriculture Undersecretary Jaime N. Ferrer that he had pampered the settlers in government projects.

"I know how the settlers live, especially in a settlement." He said, "I want to give them a chance."

The President said he was relieving Ferrer as manager of the National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration as he (Ferrer) was overworked, referring to his positions as undersecretary of agriculture and natural resources and as general managers of the NARRA.

The President also said he was not satisfied with the results of his campaign against graft and corruption. He said he would recommend to Congress larger appropriations for a stronger staff of prosecutors and investigators who will go after the witnesses.

He said that cases oftentimes were lost owing to the absence of witnesses.

He, however, said he was no longer in favor of naming a P1-a year racket buster.

"I have learned a lesson," he said.

December 8.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today designated Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo as the Philippine representative to the UN Security Council for the full one-year term beginning January 1, 1957. Serrano and his staff for their "dedicated efforts in winning for our country a seat in the UN Security Council."

The full text of the President's message to Ambassador Serrano follows:

"I am pleased to congratulate you and your staff for your dedicated efforts in winning for our country a seat in the UN Security Council. I fully realize the uphill fight that all of you waged to get the desired seat and this fact makes me the more appreciative of your splendid work. Through your continued zeal and dedication I know that our country will justify the place of honor she has won in the world organization. Warmest congratulations again and best wishes for continued success."

The President cabled his messages to Romulo and Serrano immediately before enplaning this morning for Castillejos, Zambales, where he was advised by his physician to spend the weekend for a rest. The President is suffering from a mild "flu" and he was advised by his physician to rest.

Because of the President's indisposition, he will not be able to confer personally the Golden Heart Presidential Award on Mayor Emilio T. Mercado of Santo Tomas, Pampanga, tomorrow morning. The President requested Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently foreign affairs secretary, to confer the award on the President's behalf.

The President also can not attend the East Central Luzon Guerilla Veterans affair in Cabanatuan City, scheduled Sunday noon. He requested Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol to speak in his stead.

BEFORE the President left for Zambales, he had breakfast with Senator-elect and Mrs. Jacob Javits of New York, who are his house guests at Malacañang during their two-day stopover in Manila.

Sen. Javits, who is currently a congressman, met the President when the latter, also a congressman then, went to the United States to work for veterans benefits some six years ago. Present at breakfast were Mrs. Magsaysay and Minister and Mrs. Horace Smith of the U. S. Embassy in Manila.

After breakfast, the President proceeded to his study, where he received Rep. Mrs. Leroy Johnson of California, who are also on a two-day stopover in Manila in the course of a tour in the Far East.

Rep. Johnson informed the President that he and his colleagues in the U. S. Congress were very much impressed with the excellent work President Magsaysay is doing in this part of the world. He expressed his readiness to extend whatever help the Philippines might need of him, either personally or as a member of the U.S. Congress.

December 9.—EARLY this morning the President returned to Malacañang with his family from a week-end trip to Castillejos, Zambales. Although he had partly recovered from the "flu", the President was still feeling indisposed because of the effects of the sudden attack.

DESPITE his indisposition, the President motored this morning to Cavite to visit the 7th Infantry Battalion under the command of Lt. Col. Laureano Maraña. The President congratulated Maraña for his success in maintaining peace and order in Cavite. Maj. Jose Estrella accompanied the Chief Executive in his visit to Cavite.

From Cavite the President returned to Malacañang for much needed rest.

In the evening, the President had dinner with his house guests, Senator-elect and Mrs. Jacob Javits of New York, who were scheduled to fly tomorrow to Hongkong.

December 10.—THE President today said the he would make the celebration of the Boys and Girls Week nationwide. He expressed approval of the plan during the courtesy call of the boys and girls who were chosen to run the city government of Manila on the occasion of Boys and Girls Week.

The young city officials were headed by Mayor Aurora Zabala of the Mapa High School and Vice-Mayor Lourdes C. Sundiam of the Lakan-Dula Elementary School. The President conversed with them for about 20 minutes.

It was the young girl mayor who requested the President to proclaim the celebration of the week a nation-wide scale. She said that it was one of the important ways of developing moral character and civic consciousness among the youth.

The young officials pledged their "cooperation and support to the national administration." When the President turned to Vice-Mayor Sundiam, an elementary school pupil, and asked her how easy it was to preside over a municipal board session, the small girl replied: "There is much debate."

After receiving the young city officials, the President inducted the officers of the Philippine Association of Private Secondary Schools who pledged the whole-hearted support and assistance of their association to the Administration's rural development program.

In a resolution, the officials and members of the PAPSC requested the President not to countenance the establishment of a public or a private high school in a locality where there already existed such school with adequate facilities to meet the need of the community.

They also proposed to the President that certain goods and equipment for laboratory and vocational education purposed be allocated from the Japanese reparations to private schools for their use.

The President approved the requests of the PAPSC in principle and said the he would discuss the matter further with Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr. The officials inducted by the President were headed by Gabriel F. Fabella, presiden; Irineo M. Cruz, vice-president; Domingo C. Salita, secretary; Mamerto S. Miranda, director-treasurer; and Ricardo S. Cruz, director-auditor. The induction was witnessed by a large group of members of the association.

A delegation composed of officials of Pasay City and civic organization leaders also called on the President and requested sites for buildings for the Pasay City Tuberculosis Hospital, Red Cross, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts of the city. The delegation was headed by Dr. Arturo Alafritz, Pasay City Vice Mayor R. Galvez, Ramon Sevilla, and Mrs. Nena Trinidad.

Some members and officers of the Association of Jeepney Operators of the Philippines made a personal representation with the President for the continuance of the boundary system. They asked that a fixed tax be levied on the operators instead of the present rate, plus two per cent of the income. The President said that he would study their petition and consult the authorities concerned on the matter. The jeepney operators were headed by Antonio Merida, president, and accompanied by Rep. Augusto Francisco of Manila.

Complete banning of the importation of radios and more dollar allocation for the importation of raw materials for the manufacturer of radios was recommended to the President by members of the Electronic Manufacturers of the Philippines. The Chief Executive told the electronic manufacturers, headed by Earl Hornbostle, the he would discuss their recommendation with Central Bank officials.

Resolutions thanking the President for the appointment of labor leaders to the different government corporation boards to represent labor were handed to the President by officers of the Confederation of Unions in Government Corporations headed by Vicente Arniego, president.

William M. Bristol, chairman of the board of the Bristol-Myers International of New York, and his wife were accompanied by Leandro Zorilla, department managers of Ed. A. Keller and Co., Ltd., local distributor of Bristol-Myers products, and V. Pambuan of the same company.

Two-parent-teachers association delegations were among the callers of the Chief Executive. They requested aid for the repair of the school houses in their Chief Executives. They requested aid for the repair of the school houses in their respective communities. The first PTA delegation was from Calauan, Laguna, headed by Mrs. Maria Ravelo, and the second one was from barrio Sta. Rosa, Sarrat, Ilocos Norte, led by Councilor Angel Ganal.

Drs. Rosita Rivera Ramirez, Felicidad Calip-Atienza, and Josefina Ticzon-Ramirez of the Philippine Medical Women's Association discussed with the President a proposed site for a building of their association.

A delegation from Baler and Burdeos, Quezon, thanked the President for the puericulture center donated to Baler. The delegation was headed by Burdeos Mayor Mrs. Corona Ayuste, Rafael de la Peña, and Dr. Juan C. Angara.

Other callers of the President included Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol and Fr. Joseph Roebuck, S.M., of Hawaii. Fr. Roebuck was accompanied by Fr. Pedro Verceles, S.J., and Fr. Jose Rosauo, S.J.

MALACAÑANG today announced that the President had signed a proclamation authorizing the Philippine College of Surgeons to conduct a national fund and educational fund drive during the period from December 1, 1956, to January 31, 1957.

The proceeds from the campaign will be utilized by the Philippine College of Surgeons for the establishment of a modern Cancer Clinic offered free to the public. The President called upon all citizens and residents of the Philippines, irrespective of nationality or creed, to assist "in this humanitarian campaign."

President Magsaysay this noon signed Executive Order No. 218, reorganizing the Department of Labor and providing for the implementing details for Reorganization Plan No. 20-A relative to labor.

The reorganization plan envisions two over-all goals: (1) to achieve maximum service and protection for the workingman in the provinces; and (2) to speed up management processes in order to provide the machinery for equity and justice.

The plan provides for the decentralization of functions and related personnel. This is aimed at assuring adequate labor services in all labor centers throughout the country and affording equitable treatment to workers.

It also provides for well-coordinated inspection activities and thus eliminates existing overlapping and duplication of efforts in this area. On the whole, the plan provides a streamlined organization with a minimum of red tape which will be able to take fast action on problems, not only in Manila but throughout the provinces and labor centers.

Implementation of the plan will result in more effective labor services by placing 70 per cent of the employees in field positions, thereby bringing the services closer to the workers.

As reorganized, the Department of Labor will be made up of the following:

- (1) Office of the Secretary with its staff divisions;
- (2) Bureau of Labor Standards with a Labor Standards Commission which consolidates staff functions of the present Bureau of Labor, Wage Administration Service, and Industrial Safety Engineering Division;
- (3) Bureau of Workmen's Compensation with a Workmen's Compensation Commission;
- (4) Bureau of Labor Relations which consolidates the present Conciliation Service and Labor Registration Division in the Office of the Secretary;
- (5) Office of Manpower Services replaces the present National Employment Service; and
- (6) Eight regional offices with headquarters established in conformance with Reorganization Plan No. 53-A Field Operations which consolidates operating functions of the department.

It was pointed out that in reorganizing the Department of Labor, the current number of authorized positions is retained with the exception of five medical positions which are transferred to the Department of Health.

The implementation plan also stressed that operating appropriations are reduced by approximately P44,000 as follows: (1) P31,000, savings for use in raising employees' salaries under Reorganization Plan No. 2-A; and (2) P13,000, transferred to the Department of Health to cover cost of medical positions transferred.

A breakdown of offices in the reorganized Department of Labor follows: Office of the Secretary, Advisory Councils and Boards to the Secretary of Labor, Fiscal and Personnel Division, General Services Division, Legal Services Division, Labor Statistics Division, Office of Manpower Services, Bureau of Labor Standards with a Labor

Standards Commission attached to it, Bureau of workmen's compensation with a workmen's compensation commission attached to it, Bureau of Labor Relations, and eight Regional Offices with their corresponding provincial and local offices.

The labor secretary shall direct the orderly scheduling of transfers, changes, and other transitional actions required by the reorganization plan within 60 days from the effective date of the implementing details.

The implementation report for Reorganization Plan No. 20-A on labor was approved by the Government Survey and Reorganization Commission of which Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona is the chairman. The task force on labor which drew the plan is composed of Rep. Arturo M. Tolentino as chairman with Sen. Quintin Paredes and U.E. President Francisco Dalupan as members.

The executive order was signed by the President in the presence of Judge Salvador Esguerra and Assistant Executive Secretary Mariano Yenke, Jr.

President Magsaysay today created a committee to study ways and means of helping rice farmers through, among other things, giving price and support for palay.

The committee is composed of Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona as chairman, Rep. Rogaciano Mercado of Bulacan, one senator to be named after consultation with Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., and Senate Majority Floor Leader Cipriano Primicias, Gov. Conrado F. Estrella of Pangasinan, and NARIC and General Manager Jacinto Gavino, as members.

The President directed the committee to meet at the earliest date in order to prepare a legislative measure which may be necessary for submission to Congress in carrying out the objective of helping rice farmers.

The President announced the formation of the committee after a conference this afternoon with NARIC Manager Gavino.

After conferring with Gavino, the President received Social Welfare Administrator Amparo Villamor, who reported on the relief being extended by the government to the typhoon sufferers of Albay and Camarines Norte due to typhoon "Polly".

The SWA head said that rice was being purchased locally by SWA office for the typhoon victims. She added that other relief goods, like clothing, canned goods, and other needed materials were being loaded this evening for shipment to the stricken area tomorrow morning.

The President told Mrs. Villamor to keep him informed of the progress of the relief work being done.

THE President this day appointed Gregorio Lantin as *ad interim* District Judge of the 6th judicial district.

Lantin, who was formerly an assistant city fiscal of Manila, will preside over the court of first instance of Manila, Branch VII, which position was vacated when Judge Edilberto Barot had been named city fiscal of Manila.

Also signed by the President were the promotions of 19 Manila assistant fiscals, three of whom are second assistant fiscals. The promotions were recommended by Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason.

THIS afternoon the President received from Arturo Xavier, chief of the investigation division and evaluation officer of the investigation of government officers and employees falling within the purview of the Anti-Graft Law.

The initial investigation which was confined to officers and employees in the Bureau of Customs resulted in the following: three cases filed in court seven cases terminated, 27 cases assigned, 44 cases for investigation, and 20 cases still pending.

Among the investigation terminated, Xavier reported those of Alejandro Katigbak, an examiner; Catalino Nuval, an appraiser; and Marcelo Pascua, an appraiser, all of whom have already been charged before the court of first instance of Manila for violation of Republic Act No. 1379, known as Anti-Graft Law.

Aside from these cases, one other case is ready for filing before the prosecution division of the Department of Justice; three had been cleared, but two of which had been recommended for administrative action on account of alleged commissions of other offenses, Xavier reported.

The NBI investigator said that within this month, he expected to be able to report on the outcome of at least three pending cases involving alleged violations of the anti-graft law, income tax evasion, and immortality.

Formal investigation had been started last July 26, pursuant to the President's orders directing Xavier to organize a team that would look into cases of government officers and employees falling within the purview of the anti-graft law. Members of the investigating team were pick up from the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Budget Commission, the Constabulary, the Department of Finance, and the NBI.

As an initial step, investigations were confined to officials and employees of the Bureau of Customs as per agreement with the commissioner who furnished the investigators with a list of names of employees suspected of having violated customs and administrative regulations.

Xavier was accompanied to Malacañang by Customs Commissioner Manuel P. Manahan.

The President was informed today by Minister Caesar Lanuza, chief of the Philippine Reparations Mission in Tokyo, Japan, that 41,000 tons of cement will reach Manila late this month and early in January 1957, as part of the goods from the Japanese reparations.

Lanuza told the President in a wire that 1,000 metric tons of cement will be disembarked daily in Manila starting late this month up to early next month. The 41,000 tons of cement are part of the 250,000 tons coming from Japan as reparations. Lanuza's cablegram also said that the contract for the supply of the cement had already been awarded in Tokyo. The arrival of the 41,000 tons of cement will hasten the construction projects of the government.

December 11.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning conferred with financial and legal advisers on measures to be recommended for enactment in the forthcoming fourth regular session of the Third Congress.

Among those taken up at the conference were the proposed budget for the next fiscal year and some measures designed to help local industries. Present were Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, Governor Miguel Cuaderno of the Central Bank, Assistant Executive Secretary Mariano Yenke, Jr., and Judge Salvador Esguerra.

Also present was Senate Majority Floor Leader Cipriano Primicias, who called at Malacañang to pay his respects following his recent return from the Interparliamentary Union Conference held in Bangkok, Thailand. Sen. Primicias had been chairman of the delegation composed of seven senators and representatives which represented the Philippines in the international conference.

EARLIER this morning, the President had breakfast with Walter Williams, U.S. assistant secretary of commerce, who paid him a courtesy call. Williams, who is currently on an observation tour in the Far East, was accompanied to Malacañang by Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma and Minister Horace Smith, charge d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Manila.

During the call, the President showed the visiting American official samples of finished coconut products consisting of flood shortening, salads, pure oils, cereals, and charcoal produced by the PHILCOA Hiller machine. Williams was very much impressed and said that the products had "tremendous possibilities" in the American market.

AFTER his conference with government officials, the President spent a good part of the morning until noon working on important pending papers brought to him by Assistant Executive Secretary Yenke for action. He requested Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently foreign affairs secretary, to receive his scheduled callers and delegation in his desire to dispose of some pressing state matters.

Benigno S. Aldana, assistant director of public schools, presented to the President a copy of his new book, *The Philippine Public Schools: Their Administration and Financing*. Just off the press, the new book whose second part included the author's doctoral dissertation in the University of California, was dedicated to the President. Aldana was accompanied by Gov. Conrado F. Estrella of Pangasinan.

A delegation from Batangas, headed by Rep. Numeriano Babao and Mayors Pedro Tolentino of the town of Batangas and Jose Garcia of San Juan, requested financial assistance for the construction of a public market and roads.

Another delegation composed of Baguio City residents sought the award to them of titles to lands belonging to the Manila Railroad Company which they had been occupying since liberation. This group was accompanied by Rep. Ramon Mitra of Mountain Province.

Other delegations this morning were those from Samar accompanied by Sen. Decoroso Rosales; from Pampanga, headed by Mayor Isidro Ocampo of Guagua and Jose Yabut of San Simon; from Cavite, led by Gov. Delfin N. Montano and Mayor Santos Ambagan of Amadeo; from Iloilo, accompanied by Rep. Ramon Tabiana; from Laguna, headed by Rep. Wenceslao Lagumbay; from Cagayan, accompanied by Paulino Alonzo; from Misamis Oriental, headed by Rep. Ignacio Cruz; from Albay accompanied by Rep. Tecla S. Zigla; from Zambales, headed by Rep. Enrique Corpus; and from Dalaguete, Cebu, headed by Mayor Felix Zambrano.

Individual callers of the President included Agriculture Undersecretary Jaime Ferrer and Defense Secretary Jose M. Crisol.

THE President approved the promotions of 18 regular officers of the Armed Forces from major to the permanent rank of lieutenant colonel effective October 1, 1955, upon the recommendation of the secretary of national defense, it was announced in Malacañang today.

According to the announcement, all the officers were due for promotion under Republic Act No. 297.

Names of the 18 officers follow: Uldarico S. Baclagon, Inf.; Ciceron P. de la Cruz, AGS; Daniel Iway, Inf.; Abenir D. Bornales, Inf.; Marcelino M. Santos, QMS; Jose M. Javier, OS; Eduardo P. Soliman, Inf.; Felipe M. Fetalvero, Inf.; Francisco del Castillo, Inf.; Epimaco V. Orias, AGS; Delfin E. Argao, Cav.; Lucendro Galang, Inf.; Aristoteles B. Olayvar, Inf.; David A. Pelayo, Inf.; Ramon G. Gelveson, Inf.; Jose L. Alejandro, Inf.; Julio R. Narvaez, Inf.; and Antonio J. Henson, Inf.

December 12.—BEFORE presiding at the Cabinet meeting this morning, the President received Gov. Manuel Barreto of Zambales and discussed the latter's problems in his province.

The President also received Iloilo City Mayor Rodolfo Ganzon, who asked him to replace Special Prosecutor Union C. Kayanan as government investigator. Kayanan had been assigned to investigate Ganzon for mauling a radio commentator in Iloilo City.

Before saying anything on Ganzon's petition, the President summoned Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, who was then at Malacañang waiting for the start of the Cabinet meeting.

Secretary Tuason told Ganzon that he could not relieve Kayanan as government investigator. He said, however, that if Ganzon had any charges against the government investigator, the Department of Justice would assign another special investigator to look into Ganzon's complaints.

AT 10 a.m. the President presided over the regularly weekly meeting of the Cabinet held at the Council of State room. The meeting lasted until 1 p.m.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay and the Cabinet at their meeting this day authorized Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently foreign affairs secretary, to ask for extension of the date for shipping of the world quota of Philippine sugar after December 31, 1956, to give buyers time to close the sale of this sugar.

The request for the extension of the time allotted for shipping the sugar was made because typhoons which had lashed the sugar areas had affected the normal functions of the industry.

The Cabinet will continue studying the sale of the Philippines' world sugar quota. It was announced that in the meantime interested parties could look for buyers of their exportable sugar.

Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno, who was requested by the President to attend the Cabinet meeting, participated in the discussions.

Upon recommendation of Vice-President Garcia, the President appointed a special technical committee to study and report on the controversy between the U.S. Navy and the Varadero de Manila on the proposed reclamation by the U.S. Navy of certain property at Sangley Point, Cavite.

The Committee will be composed of one representative each from the Bureau of Coast and Geodetic Survey, the National Shipyards and Steel Corporation, the Ports and Harbors Division of the Bureau of Public Works, and the Philippine Navy.

The committee was directed to:

- (1) Determine the possible effect of the proposed reclamation on the depths of the water in the Cañacao Bay needed by the Varadero de Manila in the operation of its ship repair facilities owing to sitting;
- (2) Determine if the guarantee of the U. S. Government to maintain the depths as shown in the survey of June 30, 1956, can be complied with so as not to hamper or interrupt the operation of the Varadero de Manila shipyard;
- (3) Provide a schedule of periodical checking of the depths of the water area in question; and
- (4) Determine if the sunken vessels sought to be removed are stored within the area granted to the Varadero de Manila under the Royal Order of July 23, 1884.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this afternoon laid the cornerstone of the P2 million Tondo General Hospital in Isla de Balot along the North Bay Boulevard. He said that the Hospital was the result of the Administration's avowed concern for the welfare of the common masses.

Speaking before a mammoth crowd estimated at 50,000, the President said that he wanted a hospital in Tondo, because he did not want to see or hear sick people in the district die without the benefit of medicine and treatment.

Rep. Angel Castaño of the first district of Manila, who spoke ahead of the President, thanked the President on behalf of the people of the district for the hospital and cited all favors received by the section of the city from the President. "We are all for you in 1957," Rep. Castaño told the President.

Among the things Rep. Castaño pointed out that the people of Tondo had already received from the present Administration were 14 health centers, 13 elementary school buildings, 17 playgrounds, 11 roads, the administrative building of the Torres High School, and 21 parcels of private lands expropriated and distributed by the government to the landless people.

Health Secretary Paulino Garcia also spoke and paid tribute to the leadership of the President. Secretary Garcia said that it was the President who translated a dream that was the Tondo General Hospital into a reality. Jose F. Sugay, civic leader of Isla de Balot, was among the speakers.

Secretary Garcia said that 1,200 towns all over the country now have rural health unit teams and that the rural health program was already well ahead of schedule.

Arriving in Tondo about 4:50 p.m., the President was met by a big crowd which lined the street of Gagalangin four deep. The President proceeded to the platform where the ceremonies began about 5:15p.m.

In his extemporaneous speech in Tagalog, the President recalled that when he was working as a laborer in the Zambales Lumber Company in Calle Yangco, Tondo, he used to walk from his residence in Isabel, Sampaloc, to the lumber company. He added that it was because of his experience as a poor man that he now knew the sufferings of the poor people.

The President was accompanied to Tondo by Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, Secretary Garcia, Acting Speaker Daniel Z. Romualdez, Rep. Castaño, Rep. Augusto Francisco, and Public Works Undersecretary Rafael Contreras. Sen. Pacita Madrigal-Gonzalez was also present at the cornerstone laying.

Meanwhile, Malacañang announced that the President designated Mrs. Remedios Fortich as chairman of the board of directors of the NARRA. Until her designation, Mrs. Fortich was a director of the NARRA.

December 13.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning mobilized various agencies of the government for the purpose of rushing aid to sufferers in Camarines Sur and other provinces in the Bicol region hard-hit by the last destructive typhoon, “Polly.”

The President orders Health Secretary Paulino Garcia by telephone this morning to dispatch medical teams composed of doctors and nurse to minister to the typhoon victims who, according to reports received in Malacañang, were badly in need of medical assistance. He instructed the secretary of health to have the teams leave Manila with medical supplies in several planes this afternoon.

The Chief Executive also called by telephone Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao and instructed him to have Armed Forces doctors in the area assist in the relief work. He said that the Army already on the scene would be best in a position to render immediate assistance to the sufferers.

Calling also Social Welfare Administrator Amparo Villamor, the President inquired how much relief had already been given to the typhoon victims. Mrs. Villamor, however, informed him that assistance so far extended had been limited to the resources of SWA offices in the disaster areas and that no supplies could be sent from Manila until tomorrow when Air Force planes would be available for transportation.

The Chief Executive Mrs. Villamor to call up the Air Forces again and ask for the necessary planes. He said that she could use the presidential plane *Pagasa* if no other planes were available.

“I want the relief supplies to be sent today,” the President told the SWA administrator. “Not tomorrow, but today,” he emphasized over the phone.

The President gave the order following receipt of urgent messages from officials in the stricken areas informing him of the extend of devastation wrought by the last typhoon in their respective localities.

Rep. Felix Fuentebella of Camarines Sur called at Malacañang this morning and brought pictures of various public and private buildings destroyed by the typhoon in a number of municipalities in his province. He informed the President that about 85 persons had been verified to have perished, 24 of whom had been buried alive in a landslide

as a result of the heavy rains. At least 100 other persons had been reported missing and their fate still unknown; Fuentebella reported.

Aside from relief personnel, the President ordered the government agencies to make immediate shipments of supplies such as rice, canned goods, clothing, nipa, and other construction materials to help thousands of families rendered homeless by the calamity.

The plight of the farmers in Lopez, Quezon, another town hard-hit by the typhoon, was graphically described this morning when a delegation of some 100 barrio lieutenants marched to Malacañang bringing with them samples of their produce consisting of bananas, pineapples, coconuts, gabi, kamoteng kahoy, and other root crops which, they said, they could not transport to market owing to the destruction of roads and bridges in their locality. The delegation was headed by Rep. Leon Guinto, Jr., and Mayor Gregorio Yumul.

EARLIER this morning, the President received General Il Kwon Chung, chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staffs of the South Korean armed forces, who called to pay his respects following his recent arrival in Manila for one-week observation tour here. He was accompanied by Maj. Gen. Il Kim Hyun, vice-chief of staff; Minister Young Kee Kin of the local Korean legation; and Capt. Chang Hoon Won, aide to General Chung.

Members of a trade mission from Okinawa headed by Moriyasu Tomihara, president of the Bank of the Ryukus, also called to pay their respects. With S. Toguchi acting as spokesman, the delegation composed of business executives of the Ryukus, informed the President they were on a tour of principal cities in Asia with the view to exploring trade possibilities with these countries.

A delegation from Iloilo headed by Mayor Florencio Hisolo of Pabia sought financial aid for certain projects in their municipality. With this group were officers of the Iloilo Voters' League headed by their president, Bernabe Gomez, who invited the Chief Executive to be guest speakers at their annual convention in January.

A group of tenants from Quezon City, requested the expropriation of the Santol-Sociego Estate and its subdivision and distribution to present occupants which had been there for many years from being ejected by the estate's private owners.

President Magsaysay started receiving callers about 8 a.m. About 11 a.m., however, he designated Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon to receive the rest of his scheduled visitors at his study in Malacañang.

Delegations this morning included those headed by Mayors Domingo Villacarlos of Ternate, Cavite; Marcial Punzalan of Tiaong and Bienvenido Marquez of Padre Burgos, Quezon; Pedro Duran of Balañgiga and Gregorio Anguren of Quinipondan, Samar; Luis Gutierrez of Alitagtag, Batangas; Federico R. Estepa of Naguilian, La Union; Leroy S. Brown of Bisilan City; and Cipriano Colago of San Pablo City.

Among individual callers were Sens. Francisco Delgado and Roseller T. Lim; Rep. Serafin Salvador or Rizal, and former Public Works Secretary Sotero Baluyut.

THE President this noon held a luncheon conference with Congress leaders headed by Acting Speaker Daniel Z. Romualdez and discussed important legislative measures to be presented during the fourth regular session of the Third Congress.

Toward the end of the conference, the matter of Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo's appointment was brought up and it was the consensus of the congressman that his appointment by the President had been done properly and legally.

Among the bill discussed in a preliminary way were.

(1) Full implementation of the reparations agreement between the Philippines and Japan.

There are two reparations bills under study; namely, one drafted by Malacañang and the other drafted by Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr. It was understood that the good points of both bills would be combined in the final draft of the bill to be proposed.

The important feature of the bill will be the creation of a reparations commission in Manila and a reparations missions in Tokyo which will have the responsibility of administration and control over reparations on the basis of programs to be approved by the President, upon the recommendation of the National Economic Council. The reparations program will be coordinated with the overall economic development program.

(2) Amendments to the National Power Corporation chapter.

The President pointed out the necessity of changing the NPC charter to the effect that corporation could sell electric fluid directly to consumers in cases where franchise holders of electricity charge exorbitant rates and are not rendering satisfactory service to the people.

(3) A bill to develop the mining industry in the Philippines. There are two bills on this subject, one in the House and the other in the Senate, pending consideration.

One of the bills, sponsored by Rep. Fernando L. Pajarillo of Camarines Norte, chairman of the House committee on mines, proposes among other things the bidding for the operation of the Nonoc Island in Surigao, for the development of the copper ore deposits in that area.

It is proposed that the operator shall be paid a share in the net profit or in the gross receipts computed such that the government shall retain not less than 45 per cent of the net annual profit from the operation, or not less than 4 per cent of the gross quarterly receipts.

Nonoc Island is estimated to have 52 million tons of copper ore deposit valued at P2,700,000,000 reported to be the richest copper ore deposits in the world. Operation of this deposit will enable the employment of an estimated 20,000 people.

(4) A bill to limit the importation of Virginia leaf tobacco;

(5) Amendment to the Social Security Law.

The congressmen present at the luncheon-meeting agreed that the Ambassador Romulo was the most experienced Filipino diplomat in the field of international politics even as they justified his appointment "as legal and not violative of the special provisions of R.A. 1600."

Speaking for the group, Rep. Ismael Veloso of Davao, acting House majority floor leader, said that with Romulo's appointment, the country has availed itself of the services of a "seasoned and tested" diplomat who has served in the UN since its inception as chief Philippine delegate and president of the UN general assembly.

Rep. Veloso said, he was seconded by Rep. Constancio Castañeda of Tarlac, that Romulo's appointment was "legal," citing the special provision of the Department of Foreign Affairs budget in the General Appropriations Act, which qualified restrictions in the provision with the opening clause: "subject to policy directives of the President of the Philippines and the Secretary of Foreign Affairs."

The phrase appearing in the special provision of the foreign office budget, according to the congressmen present, "in effect justified the President's decision to appoint Ambassador Romulo."

Aside from Acting Speaker Romualdez, other representatives present were Tobias Fornier of Antique, Jose Roy and Constancio Castañeda of Tarlac, Fernando L. Pajarillo of Camarines Norte, Jacobo Gonzales and Wenceslao R.

Lagumbay of Laguna, Francisco Ortega of La Union, Isidro Kintanar of Cebu, Jose Nuguid of Bataan, Ismael Veloso of Davao, Joaquin R. Roces, Augusto Francisco, and Angel Castaño of Manila, Jus- Negros Oriental.

Also present were Legislative Secretary Jose Nable, Acting Press Secretary Guillermo V. Sison, Mayor Benigno Aquino, Jr., and Capt. L. Polintan, Jr.

TO clarify confused interpretations of the Cabinet meeting story which appeared in one of today's morning dailies, the following outline of proceedings with reference to the barter trade questions is being issued:

(1) President Magsaysay requested Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno to give his views on the proposed barter of sugar in Hongkong.

(2) Gov. Cuaderno said the Central Bank had no objection to the recommendation of the National Economic Council to allow the barter of sugar in Hongkong considering that the Japanese have refused to purchase Philippine sugar. The quantity of sugar involved is 26,000 tons.

(3) Commerce Secretary Ledesma objected to the plan to allow sugar to be bartered in Hongkong because he said this would give sugar special treatment "and would never be able to explain this to the public."

(4) Secretary Ledesma said that if Hongkong is opened to sugar for barter, then it should also be opened to all other industries so as to avoid discrimination. He argued that opening Hongkong (or other free ports) to barter would be consistent with the Administration's policy of taking steps towards economic decontrol.

(5) Since no agreement could be reached, the Cabinet decided to place the barter issue under further study.

December 14.—THE President this morning had breakfast with Walter Robertson, U.S. assistant secretary of state, and members of his delegation who arrived in Manila yesterday for overnight stopover here enroute back to Washington D.C., after attending the conference of Colombo Plan countries held recently in Wellington, New Zealand.

The breakfast which was purely a social affair lasted for about one hour. President were Secretary Robertson, Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently foreign affairs secretary; Acting Speaker Daniel Z. Romualdez; Senate Majority Floor Leader Cipriano Primicias; Sens. Emmanuel Pelaez; Howard Jones, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state; Foreign Affairs undersecretary Raul Manglapus; Gordon Mein, deputy chief, Southwest Pacific and Philippine Area Affairs, U.S. Department of State, and Minister Horace Smith and Williams Walker, charge d'affaires and counselor, respectively, of the local U.S. Embassy.

After breakfast, the President did not receive any caller. He closeted himself in his study where he worked on state papers.

THE President this afternoon swore into office Colonels Benito Ebuena, Air Force chief, and Cornelio Bondad, 3rd infantry Division commander, as *ad interim* brigadier generals in the Armed Forces at a ceremony held at the Malacañang reception hall.

After the swearing in the two generals, the President pinned the stars on them. Present at the ceremony were Mesdames Ebusen and Bondad, and ranking officials of the Department of National Defense and Armed Forces, headed by Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff, and Maj. Gen. Alfonso Arellano, vice-chief of staff.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay told a press conference after inducting the two generals this afternoon that he favored the scrapping of a provision in the 1947 Bases Treaty fixing the period of leave over the areas used as bases at 99 years.

He made this statement while commenting on the speech delivered by Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., before the faculty and students of the Yale University in the United States.

The President told newsmen that a long fixed term was impractical. He said he was in favor of retaining the U.S. bases in the Philippines as long as they were demanded by "military necessity."

Explaining his position, the President said that the U.S. bases should be retained as long as there was a need for the "mutual defense of the country and the United States."

It may be for three years, four years, and even a hundred years," he stressed.

The President also pointed out that he had abandoned plans of meeting members of the Philippine panel in the bases negotiations. However, he said that he had asked them to submit a detailed report of their work for the last four months until the negotiations collapsed.

The President said that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Walter S. Robertson told him at a breakfast conference this morning that the United States would set up Asia's nuclear center in the Philippines.

The President said Robertson gave him this assurance in the wake of strong representatives by Japan and other Asian countries to het the projects.

Robertson, the President said, had hinted that \$20 million would be sent to the Philippines site in Diliman, Quezon City, as the location for the nuclear center.

The President also said that there had not been any substantial development in the "recessed" bases talks.

He told newsmen that, according to news reports, Karl R. Bendetsen, spokesman of the U.S. panel had not yet reported to high Washington authorities on the stalemated talks.

Robertson told the President at breakfast this morning that the U.S. wanted to retain all her bases in all countries of the world until the world situation improved.

President Magsaysay said that he did not touch on the "recessed" bases negotiations, as Robertson was not familiar with the matter.

AFTER the press conference, President Magsaysay received a delegation of some 300 women representing thousands of members of the Women's Party of the Philippines all over the country who called at Malacañang to extend to him and Mrs. Magsaysay the season's greetings.

During the call, the delegation headed by Miss Inocencia Revilla, WPP president, took occasion to protest against the alleged discrimination being practiced by private firm which reportedly give preference to men when participation in the administration of government.

The President said he had always been in favor of giving the women population of the country more and more opportunities to serve in the government. He congratulated the women for having united themselves and formed an organization dedicated to work for the good of the nation.

Miss Esther S. Belarmino, WPP executive secretary, said that their organization had over 600,000 members all over the country. The delegation which called at Malacañang included Moslem women resplendent in their colorful native costumes.

The delegation also included Salud V. Pareño, 1st vice-president, Dolores Esguerra, treasurer; Tomasa F. Halili, auditor; Mercedes Guerrero, liaison officer; Paz Catolico, PRO; and the members of the board of directors—Mesdames Trinidad F. Legarda, Remedios Nufable Gatmaitan, Sagrario C. Vda. de Villasis, Felicidad S. Manuel, and Urbana F. Dueñas.

The group presented the President a Christmas card addressed to him and First Lady.

December 15.—AT breakfast conference with RFC Chairman Eduardo Z. Romualdez this morning, the President directed that RFC should give liberal loans to dollar-producing industries, especially to well established mining companies.

President Magsaysay this morning discussed extensively with Romualdez the financing of industries and agricultural enterprises with the view to enhancing production. The Chief Executive said that the loans should be extended to such industries as coffee, livestock, rubber, and fishponds.

AFTER the conference with Romualdez, the President discussed with MRR General Manager Salvador T. Villa the affairs of the Manila Railroad. Villa informed the President of the expected arrival of additional air conditioned coaches, including freight cars which, he said, would further improve the services of the railroad to the people.

Acting Gov. Jack Arroyo of Camarines Sur also called on the President requested financial aid for the typhoon sufferers of his province.

ABOUT 11:15 a.m. the President motored to the National Orthopedic Hospital for a surprise visit. He was met by Mrs. Benita Gancy, chief nurse, who took him around the hospital.

The President went to the emergency room and talked to the patients. One of the patients he saw was a small boy named Manuel Herrera, who was being attended to by Dr. A Gatuslao and Dr. Rosita Paras.

The President stayed at the hospital from 11:30 a.m. until 11:50 a.m.

IN the afternoon, the President went over pending state papers.

Source: Supreme Court Library

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Official Month in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52 (17), dlxxxv-dcv.

President's Month in Review: December 16-31, 1956

OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

December 16.—THIS day was a real day of rest for President Magsaysay. After hearing Sunday mass as usual with his family at the Malacañang chapel, the President had breakfast with the First Lady at the presidential bedroom.

IN the afternoon, after a much needed rest, the President had a refreshing dip at the Malacañang swimming pool. Later, he had a motor drive around the city, accompanied by his junior aide, Lieut. Leopoldo Regis.

The President returned to the Palace about 6:30 in the evening.

December 17.—AT a “working” breakfast conference with officials of the Home Financing Commission this morning, the President discussed at length the housing problems of the country with the accent on the implementation of the government’s low-cost housing program in the rural areas and among the low-income sector of the population.

At the conference with the President this morning were Navy Commodore Jose V. Andrada, Home Financing Commission chairman-general manager; RFC Chairman Eduardo Z. Romualdez, member of the National Housing Council HFC Commissioners Nicolas T. Jimenez, Joaquin E. Chipeco, and Sixto Orosa, Jr.; and C. M. Vega, HFC chief of publicity and information.

President Magsaysay agreed with General Manager Andrada that the housing project could generate other allied industries in the country.

President Magsaysay agreed with Commissioner Andrada that the housing project could generate other allied industries in the country.

Informed by General Manager Andrada that the HFC gears its major activities in the implementation of the government’s housing program in the rural areas, President Magsaysay gave the go signal to the HFC to “start immediately a nation-wide construction program for the rural population.” President Magsaysay also gave the go signal to the HFC in enlisting the financial assistance of government lending institutions like the GSIS and the RFC.

Informed of the plan to enlist the GSIS’ financial assistance, GSIS General Manager Rodolfo P. Andal said that the GSIS had P30 million ready for the government’s nationwide rural and low-cost housing program for the low-income group which includes government employees and school teachers.

General Manager Andrada also took occasion to report at the conference, on the first year of operation of the HFC. Highlights of Andrada’s report to the President included: (1) a compact brochure on housing schemes intended for the rural areas and low-income group; (2) development plans for modern typical barrios and barrio communities and ideal subdivision plan for better living; (3) financial operation of the HFC which showed that it is a self-liquidating agency; (4) the HFC’s program for mass production of rural and community houses; (5) immediate construction of 1,000 homes in Angeles, Pampanga, for low-income groups; and (6) big possibilities of developing other allied industries on housing.

AFTER breakfast the President awarded medals to the winners of the “Positive Nationalism” translation contest which was sponsored by the Institute of National Language. The translation contest was held on a nation-wide scale.

As adjudged by a three-man committee composed of National Language Institute Director Jose Villa Pañganiban, Emilio Aguilar Cruz, and Vedasto G. Suarez, the Tagalog translations of “Positive Nationalism” of the following were declared winners: (Professional group) first—Hilario L. Coronel, *Nasyonalismong Positibo*; second—Conrado C. Fajardo, *Tunay na Pagkamakabayan*; third—Benjamin Condino, *Maaalab na Nasyonalismo*; (High School

group) first—Manuel J. Salazar, *Tunay na Pagkamakabayan*; second—Rene Hernandez, *Tunay na Pagkamakabayan*; and third—Eugenio F. Villanueva, *Tahasang Pagkamakabayan*.

Hilario L. Coronel, the first prize winner in the professional group, was requested by the President to read his winning translation. Awarded to the winners were P500 and a gold medal for the first prize, P300 and a silver medal for the second prize, and P100 and a bronze medal for the third prize.

The awarding of the prizes was held in the study room of Malacañang. Present were Dr. Pañganiban and friends of the winners. The President awarded the prizes after breakfast with officials of the Home Financing Commission.

Meanwhile, the President signed Proclamation No. 371, declaring Tuesday, December 18, 1956, as a special public holiday in the province and city of Iloilo so that the people of Iloilo will “be afforded full opportunity to celebrate the birthday anniversary of Graciano Lopez Jaena, one of our outstanding patriots.”

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this afternoon discussed vital governmental problems awaiting decision with Sens. Jose P. Laurel, Cipriano Primicias, and Emmanuel Pelaez.

Among the subjects taken up was the pending revamp of the Public Service Commission. The President took up with the three Nacionalista Party leaders the names suggested to fill the six vacancies.

President Magsaysay is expected to name the six public utility commissioners tomorrow.

Sen. Pelaez informed the President and Sens. Laurel and Primicias of the progress of the report being prepared by the Philippine bases panel for the Chief Executive. The report covers the informal and formal discussions held by the Philippine panel with its American counterpart during the four-month negotiations. Pelaez said the Philippine panel will meet tomorrow to finalize the draft of the preliminary report which he expects to submit to the President before the weekend.

December 18.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning received Edward Dennis Normandy III, 15-year old high school student of the Ateneo de Manila, who called to pay his respects preparatory to his departure for the U. S. to represent the Philippines in the World Youth Forum sponsored by the *New York Herald-Tribune* in which 38 countries will participate.

Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., who accompanied Edward to Malacañang, informed the President that the boy was the winner in a nation-wide oral and essay contest conducted by the U. S. Information Service in the Philippines with the assistance of the Department of Education. The boy will stay in the U. S. for three months and in Europe for one month.

Also accompanying Edward was John E. Reinhardt, cultural officer of the U. S. Embassy in Manila; William Copeland, public affairs officer of the U. S. I. S.; Rev. Fathers Leo Cullum and Herbert Kane, dean of studies and Father rector, respectively, of the Ateneo; and Edward’s mother, Mrs. Pilar Normandy.

The Chief Executive received only a limited number of callers this morning. At 11 a.m., he retired to his bedroom where he went over state papers.

Delegations this morning included those headed by Rep. Felipe Garduque and Mayor Claro P. Nuñez of Gonzaga, Cagayan; Rep. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing and Mayor Jose Vitermo of President Roxas, Capiz; Rep. Constancio Castañeda and Gov. Arsenio Lugay of Tarlac; Rep. Lorenzo Teves of Negros Oriental; and Rep. Emilio Cortez of Pampanga.

Among the last callers were Robert A. Fetherston and John J. Kelley, visiting executives of the Chase Manhattan Bank of New York, who called to pay their respects. They were accompanied by Eduardo Romualdez, chairman of the board of governors of the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation

IN the afternoon the President left the Palace for an undisclosed place. He returned late in the evening.

December 19.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning told the members of the Business Writers Association of the Philippines that increased production was the key to the country's economic problems.

The President received the BWAP members in his study room and discussed with them various matters affecting the country's trade and industry. He said that he was in favor of all-out support to the mining industry so that full exploitation of the country's mineral resources would provide enough dollars for the nation's needs.

The BWAP members, headed by their president, Tesoro de Guzman of the *Daily Mirror*, invited the President to attend the presentation of BWAP awards to outstanding businessmen and firms, to be held at the Manila Hotel on February 7, 1957.

The Chief Executive told the BWAP members that the government's financing program will be extended to basic industries in order to increase production.

Before the start of the Cabinet meeting, President Magsaysay received Governor Nicanor Maronilla Seva of Albay and Mayor Ramon Arnaldo of Legaspi, who handed to the Chief Executive donations for Hungary.

Gov. Seva handed the sum of P1,000 as contribution from the founder and faculty members of the Legaspi College for the professors and students of Hungary.

Mayor Arnaldo handed another P1,000 in cash, as the joint contribution of the Union Obrera de Legaspi and the Union Obrera de Tabaco, for the laborers of Hungary.

The President thanked them for the donation and immediately directed that the amount be transmitted to Hungary in time to arrive there before Christmas.

About the end of the Cabinet meeting, the President received the national and the conference officers of the Conference Delegates Association, Inc. (CONDA). The delegation requested the President's help in extending facilities in connection with the forthcoming eleventh National Student Conference scheduled to be held simultaneously with the Third Asian Students Forum in Baguio City from December 26 to 31.

The delegation was headed by Alberto Javier, Jr., CONDA president, who thanked the President on behalf of the CONDA for the President's assurance of assistance to the conference.

With the group were Wenceslao Q. Vinzons, Jr. (SCAP), Juan T. Aquino (PHILOLFS), Jose P. Coronel (PCYO), Linda Tañada (PWU), Tomas Gomez III (SBC), Windsor O. Refuerzo (UM), and other representatives from affiliated schools.

Rafael M. Salas, technical assistant on student affairs, accompanied the group.

THE President and the Cabinet at their meeting this day approved the recommendation of the Manila Railroad Company to award 250 freight cars to the lowest complying Japanese bidders for delivery before July 21, 1957, under the first year reparations list. At the same time, the Cabinet directed Minister Caesar Lanuza, chief of the Philippine Reparations Mission in Tokyo, to award the contract with the Japanese on January 15, 1957.

The award by the MRR was based on a commercial bid called on a world-wide basis and opened November 15, 1956, in Manila. American, British, French, Italian, German, and Japanese bidders participated in the bidding. All the lowest bidders were Japanese firms except for a German company. The German company's bid, however, was not finally selected as it would entail dollar allocations; the delivery would be too late as it would take almost one year; the company did not comply with the plans and specifications of the MRR; and its offer was not firm because it was still subject to approval by the German government.

The Japanese firms, on the other hand, accepted payment under reparations. Besides, the Japanese bidders accelerated the delivery period to six months to come within the first year list.

The order totals \$1,560,000 and the 250 cars ordered were divided among five Japanese firms which were willing to meet the MRR proposals on prices and delivery. The lowest price quoted by the Japanese was uniformly applied to all Japanese bidders and accepted by them.

This award is the first major contract by the MRR under reparations. It was announced that another bid would be opened in Tokyo by the Philippine Reparations Mission on December 27, 1956, for nine first class air-conditioned coaches, 32 deluxe third class coaches, seven poultry cars, six diesel rail cars, two-wheel lathes, and about 2,000 tons of rails and track materials, with a total cost of about \$2 million.

The MRR procurement is based on the list approved by the Council of State and the Cabinet for the first year's list. It consists of rolling stock immediately needed by the firm for existing passenger and freight business which it is not now able to handle.

The Cabinet approved the payment of P317,820 as adjustment in salaries for supervisors, principals, and general office personnel of the Bureau of Public Schools in order to correct inequities resulting from the implementation of Republic Act 842.

This salary adjustment was recommended by Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr. He said that the inequities had arisen from the insufficiency of funds and the strict enforcement of R. A. 842.

The amount of P317,820 will take care of the adjustment of salaries of these school officials from July 1, 1955, to June 30, 1956. It was noted that no elementary classroom teacher was included in the readjustment because all had already been given maximum salary adjustment allowable, based on the criteria used in adjusting salaries in July, 1955.

Toward the end of the Cabinet meeting, Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia concurrently foreign affairs secretary, personally extended, in the name of all the Cabinet members, the Cabinet's Christmas greetings to the President.

In extending the Cabinet's greetings, the Vice-President said that the President has dedicated all his efforts and energies to the welfare of the people, especially those in the rural areas. He added that he wished God would continue blessing the Chief Executive with health and continued success in his administration.

In response, President Magsaysay said that whatever might have been accomplished for the people must be credited to all government officials and personnel without whose dedicated service, nothing could be accomplished.

The Vice-President extended the Cabinet's Christmas greetings during the meeting, as this was the last meeting of the President's official family before Christmas.

The Cabinet meeting was held at the family dining room with President Magsaysay presiding. The meeting lasted from 10:30 a.m. to 12:25 p.m.

IN the wake of press reports that Manila Customs Collector Isidro C. Ang-angco had been cleared by Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, Customs Commissioner Manuel P. Manahan and PCAC Vice-Chairman Antonio Villegas reported to the President today on the latest developments in the administrative case filed by Manahan against Ang-angco in connection with the latter's alleged unlawful release of two shipments of pepsi-cola concentrates not covered by any dollar allocation.

The President directed Villegas, who had been designated as prosecutor of the probe committee headed by Solicitor General Ambrosio Padilla, to present immediately to the committee the charge against and the answer of Ang-angco, together with the endorsement of the secretary of finance and Villegas' findings in his preliminary

investigation. The probe committee will then resolve the legality or illegality of the release of the pepsi-cola concentrates and the liability, if any, of the officials who caused said release.

December 20.—THE President this morning congratulated the Davao Lions Club for the numerous contributions it had made for public improvements, particularly the installation of artesian wells and other projects aimed at assisting the Administration in its rural development and social amelioration programs.

The occasion was the call this morning of Gaudencio S. Mañalac, president of the Davao Lions, who submitted a list of projects now being undertaken and those already completed by the club. The list totaling 46 items included participation in rat extermination campaigns, resettlement of indigent families and construction and repair of hospitals, schools, and bridges.

Callers this morning consisted mostly of political leaders from all over the country who reiterated their loyalty to the Administration and their support to President Magsaysay in next year's presidential election.

Representative Vicente L. Peralta informed the Chief Executive that Sorsogon would solidly rally behind him in view of the "unprecedented" public works and other improvements granted the province under his administration.

Governor Esmeraldo Eco of Camarines Norte assured the President of the support of his province against whoever would oppose him in the 1957 elections. Eco said that the President should be allowed to continue and finish the "good things he is doing for the country."

Gov. Nicanor Maronilla Seva of Albay likewise pledged the support of his province. He accompanied a delegation to Malacañang headed by Mayor Ramon A. Arnaldo, president of the Albay mayors' and vice-mayors' league.

Other delegations this morning included those headed by Reps. Godofredo Ramos of Aklan, Jose Aldeguer and Ramon Tabiana of Iloilo, Francisco Perfecto of Catanduanes, Pio Duran of Albay, Lamberto Macias of Negros Oriental, Wenceslao Lagumbay of Laguna, and Gov. Francisco Infantado of Mindoro Oriental.

Three bullfighters now in Manila to give a series of performances also called to pay their respects. Accompanied by Manuel Elizalde, chairman of the Peace and Amelioration Fund Commission, and Jes Cortes, promoter, the bullfighters were Bette Ford, Antonio Dos Santos, and Jose Luis Vasquez. The performances will be for the benefit of the PAFC fund drive.

Mayor Alfonso Tabora of Baguio City presented the President with a check for P10,000 as the contribution of his city for the PAFC fund campaign. Mayor Tabora was accompanied by Rep. Ramon Mitra.

A large group of officials of the office of President Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam called to pay their respects following their recent arrival in Manila to observe the organization and operation of the executive office of the President of the Philippines. The group was headed by Dean Them, Vietnamese executive officer.

Later, the Vietnamese officials broke up into teams and conferred with various Malacañang officials. Ton-That-Thien, Viet press secretary, went to the Press Office where he was received by Acting Press Secretary Guillermo V. Sison.

Milward W. Martin, visiting vice-president of the Pepsi-Cola company of New York, also paid a courtesy call. He was accompanied by Sen. Pedro Sabido and Rep. Constancio Castañeda of Tarlac.

Antonio Tuason, an employee of the legal division in Malacañang, called to thank the President for having ordered the operation of his five-month old son, Reynato, who had been born with an undersized and undeveloped head. With the baby in his arms, the grateful father informed the President that the child had become normal after two months' treatment at the V. Luna General Hospital, which consisted principally in the enlargement of the baby's skull. Col. Melchor Javier, an Army surgeon, had operated on the child.

The President received callers at his study from 8 to 11:30 a.m. Then he retired to his bedroom, where he had a series of conferences with Malacañang assistants on pending state matters.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay replaced Judge Salvador today as a member of the three-man presidential committee which will investigate the release of a shipment of flavoring extract to the Pepsi-Cola Far East Development Company.

The President's action was taken upon the petition of Customs Commissioner Manuel P. Manahan for the appointment of an "outsider" to the investigating group headed by Solicitor General Ambrosio Padilla. The other member of the committee is Lt. Col. Angel Salcedo, judge advocate general of the Armed Forces. Named as Esguerra's successor was Arturo A. Alafriz, a prominent lawyer.

Manahan did not state any reason for his request but observers believed that in making it, the customs commissioner had in mind the fact that Esguerra was an "insider" on the committee, being a legal adviser of the Chief Executive.

THE President this evening appointed Dr. Wenceslao Pascual, former governor of Rizal, as full-time governor of the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation. He will replace Judge Sixto de la Costa, who has retired from the financing institution.

CLEAR thinking and sound judgment are the great needs of the day, declared President Magsaysay in brief remarks this evening during the turnover of the administration of the Manila Overseas Press Club at the Club's headquarters.

He pointed out that the club, typical of places of gathering of newspapermen, is an auspicious place for discussion and exchange of ideas which help much in distilling the best thoughts and information which the press presents to the public.

The President commended both the outgoing and the incoming presidents of the MOPC.

He said in part:

"The Manila Overseas Press Club is a place for which I have a particular sentimental attachment. During my campaign in 1953 a number of foreign correspondents tried to keep up with me. The casualties were returned to this club, where they were revived by administration of stimulants . . .

"It is a real pleasure to watch the Overseas Press Club add year after year to its traditions, constantly expanding its influence in the community. In this friendly and informal atmosphere the great ideas and issues and problems of our time are discussed and explored, and out of these friendly discussions comes the understanding which enables newsmen to inform and guide their reading public.

"This information and guidance is a great service, one of the greatest. Its accuracy and completeness could determine the very survival of democracy and freedom. Clear thinking and sound judgment are the great needs of the day. Such thinking and judgment must be well informed, and we look to you to inform us. I have complete confidence in your exercise of this responsibility.

"Let me wish you a Merry Christmas and continued success during the New Year."

December 21.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning directed the NAMARCO board to finish all matters in its agenda designed to implement the NAMARCO program of serving the consuming public.

The President issued this order because he had been informed that the plans of the NAMARCO management were not being implemented by the board. He was further told that the \$7 million allocated to the NAMARCO by the Central Bank for the purchase of essential commodities was not being used.

One of the reasons, the President learned, why the NAMARCO board could not implement the objectives of the management was that the board wanted a unanimous decision on matters brought up to it for consideration. It was observed that the implementation of the NAMARCO management's program could not be achieved if this method was followed.

The President pointed out to the NAMARCO board that it was necessary to take immediate action on the implementation of the NAMARCO's program in order to prevent prices from going beyond reasonable bounds.

President Magsaysay this morning had a conference with ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo, NARIC General Manager Jacinto Gavino, and NAMARCO Officer-in-Charge Ben F. Estrella, on the implementation of the coordination of the activities of these agencies to effect a more systematized procurement and distribution of prime commodities.

Present at the conference was former Speaker Jose Yulo, who was invited by the President to sit down with the conference for consultation in view of his vast experience in economics and as an executive.

The President last month had directed these three government agencies to coordinate their work in order to provide the people, especially those in the rural areas, with sufficient stocks of essential supplies at the cheapest possible prices.

The coordination of the work of these agencies was conceived to prevent duplication of functions in procurement, marketing, storage, processing, and distribution of prime commodities and thus effect a greater coverage of operations and more efficient service to the people.

It was envisioned under this plan to give priority to the distribution of rice, salt, sugar bagoong, tuyo, tinapa, ramie denim, canned milk, salmon, and corned beef.

Regarding the relief this day of Gregorio S. Licaros from his position in the Central Bank as a result of improper solicitation of voluntary contributions from importers to help the 1956 Christmas festival for indigent children, a Malacañang spokesman said that the President had been considering this matter since yesterday when he learned of Licaros' actuations.

The spokesman said that President Magsaysay conferred with Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno this morning and asked him if he had known of the solicitation letter of Licaros, to which Cuaderno replied that he had not, adding that had he been informed of it, he would have disapproved it.

The spokesman further said that in the impromptu conference with Malacañang reporters this morning, the President revealed that he had told Licaros during the 1955 elections not to solicit funds for the campaign. The spokesman said that from that instructions in 1955, Licaros should have been guided accordingly in his recent actuations.

The only mitigating circumstance, the President pointed out at the conference, was the fact that the money solicited was used for the benefit of poor and indigent children. However, the principle involved in the solicitation of the money was bad.

During the impromptu news conference, the President also said that whatever balance that might be left from the money solicited from importers should be returned.

The Malacañang spokesman emphasized that, according to the President, Licaros would not be replaced by a politician. The spokesman said that the President had left the matter of choosing the relief of Licaros to the Monetary Board which would select the best qualified man to fill Licaros' position.

During the impromptu news conference, the President also said that Deputy Internal Revenue Collector Jose Arañas would be appointed *ad interim* Collector of Internal Revenue after the retirement of Collector Silverio Blaquera at the end of the year.

President Magsaysay took off on a plane this evening for Castillejos, Zambales, where he will spend the week-end until Christmas. He most probably will seek relaxation in his favorite sports, hunting and fishing.

December 22.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay conferred all morning today with Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, AFP chief of staff, and Maj. Gen. Alfonso Arellano, vice-chief of staff, regarding Armed Forces matters.

The President directed Secretary Balao to relieve Col. Roman Salacup, director, and Dr. Zaraga, chief of the Medical Administration division, Veterans Memorial Hospital, because they were held responsible for the use of a dump truck in transferring a dead patient to the morgue. The Chief Executive also directed Secretary Balao to have full dress investigation of Dr. Zaraga regarding the said incident.

Col. Joaquin Sanchez, surgeon general of the AFP, will be retired from active service to replace Salacup as director of the Veterans Memorial Hospital.

After the conference President Magsaysay ate lunch with Iba, Zambales school teachers. In the afternoon he went hunting in the Zambales mountain.

December 23.—This morning the President conferred aboard the *SS Santa Maria* with Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao and Maj. Gen. Alfonso Arellano, vice-chief of staff of the Armed Forces, regarding new policies to be carried out by the incoming chief of staff who will take over when Lieut. Gen Jesus Vargas retires at the end of the current year.

A Malacañang spokesman said that Gen. Arellano will be the next chief of staff of the AFP.

IN the afternoon the President conferred in Malacañang with acting Civil Aeronautics Administrator Arturo Sevilla regarding the construction of the Manila International Airport terminal building.

After the conference, the President directed Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma and Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno to stop the bidding on the construction of the main building, a finger, and the apron of the MIA. The President, however allowed the continuation of the construction of the finger now in the process of being built.

The reasons for suspending the bidding on certain constructions at the MIA follows:

- (1) The design runs counter to International Civil Aviation Organization requirement regarding operations.
- (2) The proposed structure is too expensive.
- (3) The structure is too huge and too near the taxiway and runway. Although it has the required distance of 750 feet from the runway center lines, its size and height makes its location hazardous.
- (4) The design should be more functional and the overall alignment of the apron and the building should be re-examined to make the movement of passengers, cargo, and planes more fluid.
- (5) Plans for the construction should be tied up with future increase in traffic and jet operations.

During the conference with Administrator Sevilla, the President was informed that 11 international airlines are operating at the MIA, and next year two additional airlines have been granted permits to operate; namely, the Hongkong Airways Limited and the Swiss Air.

The President further directed that the runway be extended and improved as soon as possible for future use of jet operations.

Malacañang announced today that former Rep. Sebastian Moll is not on the Malacañang payroll, neither is he a P1-peso-a-year man. This announcement is made in view of statements in some quarters that Mr. Moll is on the Malacañang payroll.

President Magsaysay issued this day the following Christmas message:

With Christmas upon us, our hearts are filled again with expectant hopes for it joyous message of "Peace to Men of Good will."

Our people are fortunate that, in spite of the troubled conditions obtaining in other lands, we are enjoying the blessings of peace. Under this favorable climate, we should be able to continue working for our country's progress, prosperity, and happiness.

This Administration is doing all it can to preserve the peace in our land and to contribute to the peace of the world. This can be fully realized if we can be at peace first with ourselves by being men of good will.

I extend the heartfelt greetings to all, wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.

December 24.—UPON recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Parole, President Magsaysay today, Christmas eve, granted eight conditional pardons, one absolute pardon, one special absolute pardon, and one commutation of sentence.

THE President today said that the practice of the head of the import division of the Central Bank of writing letters to importers asking fixed quotas for any charitable fund drive "is definitely bad and improper" and ordered it stopped.

The President remarked that this practice was tantamount to coercion and reiterated that it must be stopped.

The Chief Executive received today, CB Governor Miguel Cuaderno's letter regarding the relief of Gregorio S. Licaros as head of the import division of the Central Bank which the President directed Cuaderno to effect last Friday.

Governor Cuaderno explained among other things that the "members of the Board understood your feelings on the matter (the improper solicitation of voluntary contributions for the Christmas festival), and regret Mr. Licaros apparent indiscretion in this connection."

Cuaderno's letter said further: "However, considering the cause for which the contributions were solicited, the fact that the distribution by Malacañang of Christmas gifts to the children of the poor has been a regular annual affair, and considering further his long and efficient service to the Government, the Monetary Board feels that it should be sufficient that a warning be given Mr. Licaros to be more discreet in matters like the one which gave rise to this incident."

In view of this explanation of the Monetary Board the President agreed with the recommendation of the Monetary Board only to warn Mr. Licaros.

PRESIDENT and Mrs. Magsaysay have received numerous Christmas greetings from all over the country, coming from people of all walks of life, including children, wishing the President and his Lady the best of the season's wishes.

Noli Reyes, private secretary to the President, said that many of the President's well-wishers wrote additional letters to express their true feelings while others who could not afford expensive cards just wrote letters.

Among those who wrote Christmas letters were those who had been sick but got well after they had been hospitalized upon order of the President.

Friends from foreign lands also sent their Christmas greetings to President and Mrs. Magsaysay. According to Reyes, some of the foreign greeters said that they did not know the President personally but that they had heard and read about him.

The foreign greeters were led by President and Mrs. Dwight Eisenhower of the United States.

The U. S. President's card is folded. On the first fold is an embossed seal of the U. S. Chief Executive with a gold background and the eagle in red color. The greetings printed on the second fold reads, "The President and Mrs. Eisenhower extend their best wishes for Christmas and the New Year." The card is personally signed "Dwight Eisenhower" and below it, "Mamie Doud Eisenhower."

President Magsaysay had also sent a Christmas card to President and Mrs. Eisenhower. On the first fold of the President's card is a front-view picture of Malacañang Palace and on the second fold is the presidential message which reads, "President and Mrs. Magsaysay extend the Season's Greetings." On top of the message is a colored seal of the Republic of the Philippines."

December 25.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay and his family celebrated Christmas Day at Malacañang in a simple and quiet way. They heard the midnight mass at the Malacañang chapel with the President's daughter, Milagros, singing Christmas hymns. She was accompanied on the organ by Mrs. Banquela.

Also present at the mass were some immediate relatives and friends of the family, including the President's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Exequiel Magsaysay, Justice and Mrs. Alejo Labrador, Dr. and Mrs. Jose Corpus, and Education Secretary and Mrs. Gregorio. Hernandez, Jr.

Following the mass, the President kissed the hands of his parents. He was followed by the First Lady and their children, Teresita, Milagros, and Ramon, Jr. Then the President and Mrs. Magsaysay exchanged greetings with their guests and they repaired to the family dining room where a simple midnight snack was served.

IN the morning the President left Malacañang with his junior aide, Lt. Leopoldo Regis. He returned to the Palace shortly after 12 noon.

In the evening the President worked on state papers.

THIS evening President Magsaysay directed Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona to study ways and means of paying salaries to barrio lieutenants.

The President said that the barrio lieutenants were rendering important services to the country by leading the people at the grassroots level in many self-help projects; such as, the construction of communal irrigation systems, schoolhouses, and barrio roads. The barrio lieutenants also lead in the food production campaign including the raising of livestock, and they aid government agencies in the enforcement of laws.

The Chief Executive said that, in recognition of their services to the people, the barrio lieutenants deserve to be given salaries. He directed Aytona to study the feasibility of paying them. He told Aytona to study the feasibility of preparing a bill to implement this directive.

It is estimated that some 24,000 barrio lieutenants are rendering their services all over the Philippines for free.

December 26.—THE Cabinet adopted today a recommendation of the National Economic Council for extension of the present trade and financial agreements between the Philippines and Japan up to February 28, 1957.

At the same time, the Cabinet directed the NEC to undertake immediately a study aimed at laying the basis for long-range trade relations between the two countries. The NEC was asked to have this study and the corresponding recommendations ready by the end of January next year.

The Cabinet also instructed the Department of Foreign Affairs to make strong representations with the Japanese Government for the immediate settlement of an outstanding balance of about \$12 million due the Philippines from the trade between the two countries. The \$12 million has been unaccountably held in Japan, without even earning interest.

The NEC had recommended extension of the present trade and financial agreements between the two countries, due to expire December 31 this year, after hearing the views of the Philippine Chamber of Agriculture, the Philippine Chamber of Industries, the Producers and Exporters Association of the Philippines, the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, and the Philippine Lumber Producers Association, all of which had urged the extension.

In instructing the NEC to undertake a study of long-range trade relations between the two countries, the Cabinet suggested that these groups representing the bulk of traders with Japan be invited to air their views as well as those who have urged the termination of the present trade and financial agreements between the two countries.

These include Central Bank Governor Miguel Cuaderno and members of the Monetary Board, who have recommended termination on the grounds, among others, that:

1. Japan has failed to pay the \$12 million due the Philippines;
2. Japan with or without a trade agreement with the Philippines will buy the raw materials it needs for its industrial plants where it can get them at low prices. If Japan has been buying Philippine logs, iron ore, copper, etc., paying dollars for them, it is because Japan could not get these materials at less cost anywhere else;
3. There is no basis for the fear that unless Japan is allowed to owe the Philippines large balances, Japan might not buy from the Philippines. The Philippines is a dollar-poor country, whereas Japan has a large reserve of dollars. The Philippines should be a debtor instead of a creditor of that country;
4. The Philippines is already largely treated as a dollar area by Japan, and considering its need for Philippine raw materials and as Japan has a strong dollar position, there is no reason to expect that exports to that country will diminish on the ground that she will continue to pay the Philippines in U. S. dollars, which she is doing in cases of purchases from other dollar countries.

The Cabinet directed the NEC to gather and consider all these views in order to be in a position to recommend long-range trade relations with Japan that will be most beneficial and advantageous to the Philippines.

The NEC was requested to complete this study by the end of January next year so that any aspects of its recommendations that may require congressional action could then be taken up with leaders of Congress which will then be in regular session.

AT the regular Cabinet meeting this day, the President, upon receiving reports of flood damages in Davao and Agusan, directed Social Welfare Administrator Amparo Villamor and NAMARCO Officer-in-Charge Ben F. Estrella to mobilize their agencies and extend all the facilities of their offices in giving succor to the flood victims.

Mrs. Villamor told the President that she had already instructed all SWA units in the two provinces to make local purchases of needed relief goods for distribution to the flood sufferers. She said that she would enplane with social workers tomorrow morning for the stricken area to bring additional relief goods, including food supplies, clothing, and medicines. She will direct personally the relief distribution.

The President telephoned NAMARCO Officer-in-Charge Estrella and told him to saturate the flooded areas with NAMARCO goods. This will enable the people to buy essential commodities at cheap prices. The Chief Executive also directed that a NAMARCO official be sent to supervise the NAMARCO operation in the area.

Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao informed the President that two Air Force planes had already taken off for the flooded districts taking with them relief supplies. The President directed that additional planes be requested from Clark Field in order to airlift all the needed relief materials.

Besides the reports on the flood devastation in Davao, the President received information from Butuan City Mayor Zacarias Pizarro, through Rep. Guillermo Sanchez, that the worst flood had hit Agusan with heavy damages to roads, private property, bridges, and barrio schools. He said that there was no means of communication except through the Constabulary message center.

Mayor Pizarro said that people were evacuating their homes for higher places because the rains had been continuous and water was all over Butuan City, which was fast rising. He added that there was a critical shortage of foodstuffs.

The President and the Cabinet also heard Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona report that a special committee of which he is chairman will hold public hearings beginning January 2 next year on proposals to set up price supports for rice.

The committee, Aytona said, has already held two meetings since its creation. The public hearings next month will run about three or four days and will be open to anyone who may wish to express himself on the subject, he added.

Members of the committee are Sen. Alejo Mabanag, Rep. Rogaciano Mercado of Bulacan, Gov. Conrado Estrella of Pangasinan, and Col. Jacinto Gavino, NARIC general manager. Specifically, the committee is charged with drafting whatever legislative recommendations may be necessary to set up price supports for rice if and when such a program is held beneficial for the country as a whole.

During the Cabinet meeting the President reminded the Cabinet members to submit at the earliest time their annual reports on the activities of their respective departments. These data will be needed in the state-of-the-nation message to be delivered by the President when the Third Congress opens its fourth regular session in January.

The President also created a committee of three chairmanned by Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno, with Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez and Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona as members, to study the lifting of tolls being collected in bridges financed from the revolving fund.

Upon the recommendation of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Cabinet authorized the Philippine participation in the 14th International Tuberculosis Congress to be held in New Delhi, India, from January 7 to 11, 1957. The following were designated as Philippine delegates: Pedro S. Lopez, executive secretary of the Philippine Tuberculosis Society; Dr. Jose Celis, assistant to the director of the Quezon Institute; and Dr. F. R. Nepomuceno, acting chief, division of tuberculosis, Department of Health.

Dr. Nepomuceno was likewise authorized to represent the Philippines at the Tuberculosis Conference to be held in New Delhi from January 14 to 20, 1957.

The trip of the Philippine delegates will not entail any financial obligation on the part of the Philippine Government.

Upon recommendation of Health Secretary Paulino J. Garcia, the Cabinet authorized Health Undersecretary Rafael Tumbokon to attend the meeting of the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance and of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization starting on January 7, 1957, and lasting about four weeks, to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. Expenses for the trip will be borne by the World Health Organization.

The regular Cabinet meeting held this day was the last for the year 1956. It was held at the family dining room from 10:15 a.m. to about 12:30 p.m. The President presided over the meeting.

December 27.—THIS morning President Magsaysay received Collector of Internal Revenue Silverio Blaquera, who is scheduled to retire at the end of the year after rendering 46 years of continuous service to the government.

Blaquera submitted his final report on the progress of the campaign to step up tax collection prior to his retirement. According to the report, revenue collections for the first five months of the current fiscal year have increased by P28 million over collections for the same period last fiscal year.

Collections from July to November this year totalled P238,077,091.29. For the same period last year the figure was P210,529,211.43.

Blaquera attributed the sharp increase in collections mainly to a system recently devised in his office whereby IBM machines were used to compile more accurate data on tax payers throughout the country. He said that the system was devised after the failure of Congress to pass a bill during the last session which proposed the holding of a tax census to enable tax collectors to pin-point persons who had tax liabilities with the government.

The President expressed gratification over the “splendid” work accomplished by Blaquera.

Blaquera has been in the government service for 46 years, 39 years of which have been with the Bureau of Internal Revenue. Joining the bureau in 1917, he rose to deputy collector in October 1950, then became collector when J. Antonio Araneta resigned in July 1955.

President Magsaysay today explored the possible creation of a separate department in the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation to administer the \$20 million earmarked for veterans, war widows, and orphans as part of the reparations agreement entered into between the Philippines and Japan.

In a directive sent to the RFC board of governors this morning, the President asked that a plan be studied whereby this government financial institution could handle the funds, payable to the Philippines over a period of five years, so as to provide more permanent benefits to veterans, war widows, and orphans.

The President sent the directive during a call this morning of a delegation composed of representatives of various organizations in this country. The delegation sought the creation of a new bank to be capitalized from the reparations fund primarily for the purpose of promoting the participation of veterans, war widows, and orphans in the economic development of the country.

According to a resolution submitted by the delegation, the proposed bank would extend industrial and agricultural loans to beneficiaries at reduced rates of interest and would also discount backpay certificates up to 50 per cent of their value. In this way, the reparations fund could be utilized to rehabilitate veterans and help them become productive citizens, the delegation explained.

The President listened to the proposal enthusiastically. He said the fund could thus be used to better advantage than having doled out in the form of cash or other transitory benefits to the beneficiaries. He disagreed, however, on the formation of a new bank which would require enormous amounts for overhead expenses and eat up a sizeable chunk

of the reparations fund. He said he would rather leave the administration of the fund to an additional department of the RFC.

With Gen. Basilio Valdez, president of the War Veterans of the Philippines, Inc., as spokesman, the delegation included Gen. Calixto Duque of the Convets; Gen. Alberto Ramos of the Retired Army Officers' Legion; Col. Jose Razon of the Reserve Officers' Legion of the Philippines, Col. Frisco San Juan; Pilar Normandy of the Gold Star Mothers, Widows, and Orphans; E. J. Tavanlar of the World Veterans Federation, Ben Florentino and Leonardo Alfuate of United Disabled Veterans Association; Agriculture Undersecretary Jaime Ferrer; and Bulacan Gov. Alejo Santos of the PVL.

Earlier this morning, the President received Joe Rogers, a Federal trial attorney for the U. S. Internal Revenue, who called to pay his respects. Nephew of Publisher Theo P. Rogers of the *Philippines Free Press*, Roger, who is on a few days' vacation here, delivered to the President a book *Profiles in Courage*, sent to the latter by its author, U. S. Senator Kennedy.

Members of the second class of the Reserve Officers Service School called to pay their respects. Headed by Arsenio Bonifacio, class president, the delegation which is now holding a reunion in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of their graduation in 1936, pledged their loyalty to the President. The delegation included Col. Mariano Tanwangco, class vice-president; Lt. Col. Senen Gabaldon, treasurer; Col. Florencio Medina, secretary; and Lt. Col. Aurelio Lucero, historian.

A large delegation composed of about 1,000 rice farmers from Central Luzon called to submit a petition to order the NARIC to start buying palay of the macan variety at P12.50 per cavan. Accompanied by Gov. Amado Aleta of Nueva Ecija, Rep. Constancio Castañeda of Tarlac, and some provincial and municipal officials, the delegation explained that the hiking of the price of palay would encourage rice production and enable the country to attain self-sufficiency in this staple commodity.

The President informed the group he had already formed a committee headed by Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona to study proposals for supporting the rice industry in a way mutually advantageous to both producers and consumers. He promised to give any conclusions reached by this committee top priority if they should require any measures for enactment in the forthcoming regular session of Congress.

Other callers this morning included Reps. Jose Aldeguer, Ricardo Ladrado, and Ramon Tabiana of Iloilo, Conrado Morente of Mindoro Oriental, Nicolas Fittinghoff of Koppel (Phil.), Inc., and Revenue Collector Silverio Blaquera.

THIS afternoon five Liberal Party mayors of Pampanga and their leaders and followers numbering about 200 swore loyalty to President Magsaysay and pledged to him their support for his re-election.

The five Liberal mayors who led in making their pledge to the President were Domingo B. Flores of Macabebe, Isidro Ocampo of Guagua, Marcos Padilla of Mexico, Samson Panlilio of San Luis, and Adriano Puno of Bacolor.

The big delegation was accompanied by former Secretary Sotero BaIuyut, Board Member Amado Castillo, and Gemeniano Yabut.

The delegation told the President that all of them pledged their personal support to the President because of the improvements that the President had given to the province of Pampanga. They said that they were grateful for the President's effort in returning to the province peace and order which has enabled the people to live a productive life.

The President thanked the delegation for their pledge of loyalty and support and said that he would continue to look after the welfare of the province.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay pleaded this evening for a "free but responsible press" in the development and preservation of democracy in this country.

He underscored the role newspapers play in the life of the nation and suggested that newspapermen adopt a code of ethics to protect their profession from “undue governmental interference.”

The President spoke at the second annual press award dinner of the Manila Suburban Press Club at the National Press Club building.

Expressing confidence in the ability and devotion to their work of Filipino newspapermen, President Magsaysay said he was “certain that the legitimate Philippine press is both capable of guiding our Republic and indispensable to its governance.”

“There cannot be democracy without journalism,” the President reminded his audience.

Discursing on the “historic partnership between government and journalism,” the President said this partnership rests on the balance between mutual cooperation and mutual independence.

He stressed the need for mutual independence between the two. He explained:

“The government exercises that necessary independence by avoiding the premature publication of government news, premature in the sense that publicity may bring failure to a government project or give undue advantages to certain parties in regard to a government plan. So it is that the government must maintain a degree of secrecy, however temporary, if it is to avoid the collapse or failure of important projects or the misuse of confidential information.”

But the press needs independence of its own in its work of criticizing government acts and affairs whenever necessary, the President said.

However, he warned against criticisms that do not lead to the crystallization of public opinion but, instead, serve “pressure groups or assassinate individual character.”

After the President’s address, certificates of appreciation were read and distributed to 22 awardees selected by the Manila Suburban Press Club, headed by its President, Emiliano Reynante.

After the distribution of certificates of awards, the President congratulated Col. Juan C. Relosa, commander of the 2nd Military Area, who was one of the awardees. He told Relosa, while shaking hands with the Army officer, “I think you also deserve a star.”

December 28.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this day ordered the rushing of more aid to the flood victims in Mindanao, as latest reports reaching Malacañang indicated that the water in the flooded areas was still rising.

During a conference with Social Welfare Administrator Amparo P. Villamor and Rep. Guillermo Sanchez of Agusan, who both reported on the situation in the flooded areas, the President ordered the speedy distribution of more aid to the victims. The Chief Executive also:

- (1) Telephoned Maj. Gen. John Ackerman, commanding general of the 13th U. S. Airforce, and requested assistance from the Clark Field Airbase for the airlifting of supplies to the flooded victims;
- (2) Gave P10,000 each to Gov. Felixberto Dagani of Agusan and Gov. Alejandro Almendras of Davao for the purchase of more supplies for the victims;
- (3) Directed NARIC General Manager Jacinto Gavino to ship more rice to Mindanao from the NARIC warehouse in Cebu;

(4) Ordered Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao to establish an advance command post of the 4th Military Area staff and personnel either in Davao or Agusan; and

(5) Directed that more medical teams from the Army, Navy, and Airforce be dispatched to the flooded areas.

Mrs. Villamor told the President that the latest reports she had received from SWA representatives in Agusan and Davao said that planes could not land in the two provinces. She said that the planes dispatched last Thursday with rice had not been able to land in Davao or Agusan.

The President instructed Mrs. Villamor to send more clothing materials and medicines to alleviate the conditions of the victims. He also directed Secretary Balao to have the emergency victims of the flood airlifted to hospitals as soon as the water subsided. The President told Secretary Balao that more doctors and nurses would be needed in the flooded areas as soon as the water subsided, to look after the victims.

Upon learning from Mrs. Villamor that planes could not land in the two provinces affected most by the floods, the President ordered Col. Gavino to ship more rice from Cebu.

The President conferred with Rep. Sanchez and Mrs. Villamor for about 30 minutes.

After the conference, the President received Rep. Reynaldo Honrado and Surigao Provincial Board Member Olimpio Epis. Two resolution from the mayors of Surigao and from the provincial directorate of the Nacionalista Party were presented to the President by Rep. Honrado. The resolutions urged the re-election of the President and carried the pledges of support of the signatories. The mayor's resolution was signed by 23 of the 24 mayors of Surigao. Also with Rep. Honrado and Board Member Epis were Provincial Auditor Catalino Magno and Mol G. Luib, president of the Surigao Municipal Treasurers' League.

Also received by the President was a delegation of mayors and councilors from Leyte accompanied by Acting Speaker Daniel Romualdez. The delegation, composed of Mayors Potenciano Larazabal of Ormoc City, Santiago Paladin of San Miguel, Bonifacio Montaniel of Julita, and councilors requested aid for the various public works projects in Leyte.

Earlier, the President had breakfast with Narciso Ramos, Philippine ambassador to China. Ambassador Ramos is here on a vacation. Also present at the breakfast were members of the Ramos family, including Mrs. Angela Ramos, daughters Leticia and Gloria, and Lt. A. J. Darroda, USN, fiance of Gloria.

Other callers of the President included Rep. Lorenzo Teves of Negros Oriental, Rep. Ramon Durano of Cebu, and Judge Gavino Abaya.

THE President today removed Jaime Oblenda as register of deeds of Lanao and Marawi City effective August 27, 1956, with prejudice to his reinstatement in the government service.

An investigation revealed that the commissioner of land registration had wired Oblenda on August 28, 1956, requiring him to explain within 72 hours why he should not be dismissed from the service for falsification of land titles. On August 31, 1956, Oblenda was suspended from office pending the disposition of the administrative case against him.

On September 4, 1956, several other administrative charges were preferred against the respondent. Earlier, on August 25, 1956, an information for estafa through falsification of public documents was filed against him by the city attorney of Marawi City.

According to the land registration commissioner, the telegram, the notice of suspension and the additional charges was not actually served on Oblenda because he (Oblenda), without applying for leave of absence, left his office on August 27, 1956, and since then has not reported for duty. His present whereabouts is unknown.

Upon examination by the city auditor of Oblenda's accounts, a shortage of P1,424.07 was discovered.

The administrative order signed by the President removing Oblenda said that considering all the attendant circumstances, Oblenda might be regarded as having abandoned his office "which constitutes a sufficient reason for his removal from the service." The order added that according to the secretary of justice, abandonment of office might be deemed as constituting "flagrant violation or neglect of duty" as well as "conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service." It was further explained in the order that under civil service rules, these "are sufficient cause for removal of any person in the Philippine civil service."

Upon recommendation of Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, Oblenda was removed from office as register of deeds of Lanao and Marawi City effective August 27, 1956, with prejudice to reinstatement in the government service.

THIS evening the President swore in Maj. Gen. Alfonso Arellano as *ad interim* chief of staff of the Armed Forces with the rank of lieutenant general.

General Arellano replaces Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, who is retiring at the end of the year.

After the swearing in, the President told General Arellano:

"You deserve this promotion. I hope that you will continue to carry out the defense policies of this Administration as they have been implemented by Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao and the former chief of staff, Gen. Vargas.

"These policies of the Administration are principally the maintenance of internal peace and order within our country and dedication to the service of the people.

"I wish to congratulate General Vargas for a job well done for our country and people.

"I wish you good luck," the President told the new chief of staff.

The ceremony was held at the Reception Hall. It was attended by top defense and Armed Forces officials headed by Secretary Balao and General Vargas. A big delegation from Nueva Ecija headed by Gov. Amado Aleta and composed of 29 mayors was present at the ceremonies. They thanked the President for appointing Arellano as the new AFP chief of staff.

After swearing in Arellano, the President, assisted by Mrs. Arellano, pinned the three stars on the new chief of staff's shoulders.

After the oath-taking the President was advised by former Gov. Leopoldo Diaz, of Nueva Ecija, a Liberal, that he was turning Nacionalista owing to the Administration's accomplishments for the people of Nueva Ecija. Diaz, affiliation with the Nacionalista Party was greeted with acclaim by those present.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay told an impromptu press conference this evening that he was far more concerned with the problems facing the country than with current political developments.

The President, in a brief huddle with newsmen after swearing in Gen. Alfonso Arellano as new Armed Forces chief of staff, warded off questions on politics fired by them.

He said he agreed with a recent suggestion of Sen. Jose P. Laurel that the people should concern themselves with the country's problems instead of with "political bickerings."

He refused comment when asked about City Mayor Arsenio Lacson's announced "availability," whether Lacson or Sen. Claro M. Recto was a stronger opponent, and how Sen. Laurel stood on political matters.

Told that Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez had announced in Hongkong his support of the President's reelection, the Chief Executive said this was "nothing new." He recalled Rodriguez had made similar statements before.

The President denied that he was meeting with Rodriguez this evening. In answer to another question, he also said he felt there was no need for a meeting of the Nacionalista Party executive committee at this time. "There is nothing to take up," he said.

Hearing the questions on politics asked by the newsmen, Nueva Ecija Gov. Amado Aleta, who was in the group, predicted that the President would win overwhelmingly in his province if he seeks reelection. The President told Aleta to encourage the people in the rural areas to exercise their rights and responsibilities as citizens. He told Aleta to urge them to register and vote.

The President also told the press conference that all government agencies have been mobilized to extend relief and medical assistance to flood victims in Mindanao, particularly in Davao and Agusan.

He said medical teams from the Armed Forces have started to fan out to the stricken areas to render medical help and prevent disease outbreaks. He added the 4th Military Area has set up advance command posts in both Davao and Agusan to coordinate relief activities.

In view of the difficulty of airlifting supplies to Agusan owing to flooding of the airstrip, the President said relief supplies will be shipped there from Cebu. He also said 100,000 cavans of NARIC rice stored in Cotabato will be moved to the disaster sites as soon as traveling conditions permitted.

The President also told the newsmen Maj. Gen. John Ackerman, U.S. 13th Air Force commander, has alerted his airships for any relief missions they may be requested to undertake. The President said he had asked Ackerman for this assistance.

Gen. Jesus Vargas, former Armed Forces chief of staff, also told the press conference that two Air Force planes had left for the stricken areas with supplies today and three more will leave tomorrow, two carrying supplies and the third, medical personnel.

December 29.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning directed Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao to proceed immediately to the flooded areas in the South to coordinate relief and medical assistance activities.

The President told Secretary Balao to take along with him NARIC General Manager Jacinto Gavino to coordinate the transportation and distribution of rice already gathered in Cotabato, to the flood victims.

The President took this step as reports of wide-spread damage caused by the floods made clear that relief and medical assistance activities will have to be undertaken on a wide scale to provide refuge and food for the homeless, avert epidemics, and repair public works and private property damage.

The President told Balao to coordinate all relief activities of Social Welfare Administration, the Armed Forces, the Red Cross, and other agencies that may be contributing to the total relief effort.

FOLLOWING up his directive issued this morning, President Magsaysay this afternoon conferred with Defense Secretary Balao and Lieut. Gen. Alfonso Arellano, AFP chief of staff, directing the two officials to act jointly as overall coordinators in the distribution of relief and dispensing of medical assistance among the flood victims in Mindanao.

The President told Balao and Arellano to enplane immediately together with NARIC General Manager Jacinto Gavino for the flood stricken areas in the South. Balao and Arellano will supervise and coordinate the relief operations.

During the conference with the two officials, the President also directed Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez to authorize the provincial treasurers of Agusan and Davao and the city treasurer of Butuan City to release all the necessary amounts needed by the flood-ravaged provinces in order to speed up the distribution of relief and undertake the necessary repair work. The President authorized the advancing of these funds to be charged later against his contingent funds.

The Chief Executive also sent P8,000 to Gov. Vicente B. de Lara of Misamis Oriental and P5,000 to Gov. Marcos Resiña of Bukidnon. These two provincial executives had requested these amounts for their provinces.

The President conferred with Secretary Balao and General Arellano at 12:30 p.m. Also present at the conference was Col. Mamerto Montemayor.

The President told Balao and Arellano to report to him immediately on the progress of the operations.

In the meanwhile, NAMARCO Officer-in-Charge Ben F. Estrella informed the President this afternoon that he had already shipped 25 tons of relief goods to the flood victims.

December 30.—THE President today proclaimed the existence of a public calamity in the provinces of Agusan, Bukidnon, Cotabato, Davao, Lanao, Misamis Oriental, Misamis Occidental, and Surigao, and in Butuan City.

The President issued the proclamation this morning after having found that the occurrence of widespread inundation in these areas “has not only wrought death and havoc among the inhabitants . . . but also seriously threatened them with famine, disorder, and epidemic.”

In his proclamation, the Chief Executive declared in full force and effect in the affected areas the provisions of Act No. 4164, which prohibits and penalizes the hoarding of the prime necessities of life and “holding them for sale at prices higher than 25 per cent of the prices which were current in the different provinces and city one month before the date of the proclamation.”

The prime necessities affected by the proclamation are rice, palay, corn, milk, building or construction materials, other primary foodstuffs, clothing, and the other prime necessities of life.

AFTER breakfast, having signed the proclamation declaring a state of public calamity in several provinces in Mindanao, the President enplaned for Castillejos, Zambales, where he intended to spend the New Year’s eve and New Year’s day.

He took off aboard the *Mount Pinatubo*, accompanied by an aide, Lieut. Leopoldo Regis. The President took along with him state papers which he wanted to act upon to clear his desk of pending matters before the year ended.

December 31.—MALACAÑANG announced today the *ad interim* appointment of Pedro M. Gimenez as auditor general and the designation of Benigno Aldana as acting director of public schools. The two appointees succeed retiring officials, Auditor General Manuel Agregado and Public Schools Director Venancio Trinidad.

In announcing the new *ad interim* appointments, Press Secretary J. V. Cruz said these appointments were one more evidence of President Magsaysay’s policy of promoting and rewarding career men in the government. “This policy,” Cruz added, “has served to strengthen and build up morale in the civil service.

Recent appointments of the same nature were those of Jose Arañas as acting collector of internal revenue and Gen. Alfonso Arellano as Armed Forces chief of staff.

A MALACAÑANG spokesman said that the President, during his break periods in the course of his study of state papers this day, went near Naglao sitio at the foot of the Zambales mountains and hunted deer. He was accompanied

during the hunt by his aide, Maj. Jose Estrella, and by Negrito natives who had been under the President during his guerrilla days.

The spokesman said that his former guerrilla companions were very happy over the reunion with their former guerrilla leader and they brought him presents consisting of vegetables, bananas and venison.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay issued this day the following New Year's Message:

"Fellow countrymen:

"As the old year gives way to the new, a sober appraisal of the world situation and its probable course for the days ahead evokes feelings of both gratitude and anxiety.

"The world has had a difficult year, politically and economically. While the threat of atomic annihilation holds its uneasy balance, trouble spots continue to flare into conventional warfare, bringing us ever closer to major disaster. Meanwhile, the pressures of economic and political conflict grow sharper and are felt more widely.

"In Hungary, the crushing weight of Communist tyranny has caused a brave people to choose death in a desperate struggle for freedom against a superior force. In the Middle East, bombs and gun-fire overshadow the less dramatic but more deadly paralysis of the world's vital economic lifeline through the Suez. The far-reaching consequences of these developments are being demonstrated even now as a close neighbor faces the misery of civil war.

"As a nation and as a people we have reason to be grateful. Our political institutions have shown their capacity to absorb the shock and pressures of world unrest. The defense and security policies we have pursued in concert with our allies of the free world have thus far averted the calamity of world war which we all dread. While we have felt the impact of rising world prices, we have succeeded in cushioning the effect of this trend upon the basic living standards of the majority of our people. At the same time we are pressing forward toward an economy of greater self-reliance.

"We have reason to be proud of our showing in 1956, but we cannot ignore the danger signals of 1957. World events make us more than ever conscious of the priceless treasures of our freedom and our national identity, a treasure bought and paid for with the blood and lives of our heroes and martyrs. More than ever it is clear that the welfare of the individual cannot be separated from the welfare of the nation.

"As the world nears fateful decisions, the months ahead will be months of difficulties in our national existence. We can weather these storms if we face them with unity of purpose and unity of action, if we elevate our citizenship to the highest plane of patriotism. We cannot afford less.

"My New Year's message, therefore, is a very personal one: I appeal to every Filipino in every walk of life to pledge himself to the common cause of preserving our freedom and building our nation. I appeal to every Filipino to set aside personal interest and petty differences, to join with his fellow citizens in a program of constructive national effort. If united we can face the future with confidence and hope. I call for volunteers willing to prove with deeds that they merit the title of patriot. Let us during the coming year prove that we are worthy of the sacrifices of our fathers, and let us with God's help and guidance preserve for posterity the national heritage entrusted to us.

"In this spirit, I wish each and everyone a very Happy New Year."

Source: National Library of the Philippines

President's Month in Review: January 1-15, 1957

OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

January 1.—THE Chief Executive started his New Year's Day by hearing mass at the Castillejos church. After the mass he repaired to his father's residence in barrio Barin, where he had breakfast with his father, Exequiel Magsaysay; Brig. Gen. Manuel Cabal, Constabulary chief; and Brig. Gen. Lioncio S. Tan, 1st MA commanding general.

The breakfast was followed by a conference during which the President discussed with the two generals the operations and accomplishments in the first military area in the past year. Gen. Tan told the President that the people have already returned to their barrios and farms which had been long deserted. He added, that, because of the much improved peace-and-order conditions, the farms have now become more productive.

Tan also informed the President that his men were concentrating their attention to the area on the Pampanga side of the Zambales mountains, where some dissident remnants were believe holding out.

THE President enplaned back to Manila, accompanied by Generals Cabal and Tan and his aide, Maj. Jose Estrella, arriving at Malacañang before noon, in time for a New Year's Day luncheon with his family.

Following his arrival from Castillejos, the President directed his aides to inform the department secretaries of the scheduled Cabinet meeting he was convoking tomorrow.

The President was expected to discuss with his Cabinet the accomplishment of the different departments which he would mention in his state-of-the-nation address before the opening joint session of Congress on January 28.

IN the afternoon, the President worked on his state-of-the-nation message.

He studied reports and data, as he prepared outlining his state-of-the-nation message which he will deliver before a joint session of the Third Congress when it opens this month. He went over reports of his Cabinet members the National Economic Council, and the Central Bank. Later he will confer with Cabinet members and advisers as the message takes on its final shape.

January 2.—THIS morning the President inducted into office three high government officials in a ceremony held at the Malacañang reception hall.

The three new officials who all rose from the ranks will replace their immediate chiefs who have retired from the government service.

Those inducted by the President were: (1) Jose Arañas as *ad interim* collector of internal revenue; (2) Benigno Aldana designated as acting director in public schools, and (3) Pedro M. Gimenez as *ad interim* auditor general.

After administering the oaths of office to the three new officials who were sworn in one after the other, the President remarked that he was happy to appoint them to their present positions since they all deserved their promotions.

The President emphasized to Arañas that the policy which should guide him in all his future actuations should still be the old injunction that "honesty is the best policy."

Arañas takes the place of Silverio Blaquera, who is retiring from the government. Arañas entered the Bureau of Internal Revenue as temporary clerk in 1929. He was born on June 19, 1909.

After administering the oath of office to Aldana, the President took occasion to instruct the new director of public schools to intensify the teaching of animal husbandry in all vocational high schools.

Aldana takes the place of Venancio Trinidad. He was born on November 19, 1898, at Pozorrubio, Pangasinan. He entered the government services in 1918.

Gimenez takes the place of Manuel Agregado. He was born in Bacoar, Cavite on November 23, 1895. He entered government service in 1917.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay at the first Cabinet meeting of the new year today directed Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno to fly to the flood-savaged areas of Mindanao tomorrow to survey the public works repair and reconstruction needs of the region.

The President's order set off phase two of the government assistance program for the stricken region, as phase one, the extension of immediate relief and health measures to the flood areas, was reported going on in full blast.

The President told Moreno to take along with him Highways Commissioner Rodolfo Maslog. He directed the two officials to survey immediately the repair and reconstruction requirements of the region relative to public works so that the necessary amounts can then be released and rehabilitation work commenced immediately.

In their determination to push further the rural electrification program of the Administration, the President and the Cabinet approved the recommendation of the National Economic Council for a bond issue of P6,400,000 to cover the expenditures for the construction of the Binga hydroelectric development from January to June 30, 1957. The construction of this project will complement the Ambuklao hydroelectric plant, which, is already completed.

The issuance of these bonds has been authorized under the provisions of section 4 of Commonwealth Act No. 120, as amended by Commonwealth Act No. 495. This amount will be released in two installments, as follows: January, 1957, P4 million; and April, 1957, P2,400,000.

Public Works Secretary Moreno, who is chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Power Corporation, estimated the total cost of the Binga project at P105 million. He said that of this amount, P55 million would be financed by the issuance of bonds and P25 million would come from the form of loans from the Export-Import Bank. He said that P25 million would be required for the plant equipment alone.

Bids for the plant equipment, consisting mostly of turbines and generators, will be opened on January 23, 1957, while bids for the civil works consisting of the construction of the dam, panels, spillway, etc. will be opened on February 8.

Aside from the issuance of the P6,400,000 in bonds approved by the Cabinet, an initial amount of P2 million in bonds had already been issued.

During the Cabinet meeting the President received the reports of Social Welfare Administrator Amparo P. Villamor and Health Secretary Paulino J. Garcia on the activities of the SWA and the Philippine National Red Cross in extending aid to the flood victims in Mindanao.

The Social Welfare Administration, under the supervision of Mrs. Villamor, distributed 34,000 pieces of clothes valued at P37,800; 2,300 sacks of rice valued at P43,700; 1,000 cases of canned goods valued at P14,000; and cash in the amount of P25,566; to the flood victims of Agusan, Bukidnon, Cotabato, Davao, Lanao, Misamis Oriental, Samar, and Surigao.

This relief amounted to a total of P121,066 distributed to about 20,000 families throughout the disaster areas. Mrs. Villamor said that 200 boxes of clothing and 50 sacks of rice had been sent to Negros Occidental and 2,000 pieces of clothing and 100 sacks of rice had been sent to Palawan.

Mrs. Villamor said that 100 social, workers with supervisor, had been dispatched all over the disaster areas, with Cagayan de Oro City as general headquarters. She had flown to the flood areas, and, according to her observation, the situation was under control.

According to Secretary Garcia, the Philippine National. Red Cross distributed some, P25,500 in cash to the flood victims. He said 19,667 persons had been served in 12 provinces and 31 municipalities.

The President congratulated Mrs. Villamor, Secretary Garcia, the Armed Forces, and all the officials and personnel of all the agencies which had coordinated their efforts in, helping the flood-victims.

At the Cabinet meeting, the President directed Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol, who sat in for Secretary Eulogio Balao, who could not attend the meeting owing to sickness he had contracted in Mindanao; to subdivide 1,000 hectares of the Army reservation 'known as Lot No. 2, located at barrio Upi, Gamu, Isabela, for distribution to some 118 petitioners, mostly ex-USAFFE veterans of World War II. These lands will be devoted to agriculture.

The President took this action upon receipt of a petition signed by 118 persons, mostly ex-USAFFE veterans headed by Miguel Pangalilauan and Isidro Orteza. Most of the petitioners informed the President that they had already cultivated the lands to be subdivided and had introduced improvements, building their huts in their respective portions.

The petitioners said that the area in question, although considered as Army reservation, had long been abandoned by the, Army and no permanent improvements or, establishments had been made by, the Army.

Crisol said that he would implement the President's order immediately. The President also signed an executive order terminating the collection of tolls effective February 1, 1957, on 56 toll bridges. The President took this action upon receipt, of assurance that the proceeds. from the taxes accruing, to the highway special fund were sufficient to liquidate, all the outstanding obligations on the toll bridges.

The termination of the collection of tolls was recommended by a committee composed of Secretary Moreno, Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, and Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez.

During the Cabinet meeting, Secretary Moreno also reported on the accomplishments of the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority since its organization on August 23, 1956.

The President opened the Cabinet meeting about 11 a.m. Before he sat down to business, he first greeted each Cabinet member, wishing everyone a very happy new year. The Cabinet meeting, which was held at the family dining room, ended at about 12 noon.

The President reiterated his request to Cabinet members, to submit immediately their records and proposals for inclusion in his state-of-the-nation message to the Third Congress on the fourth Monday of January. He said he wanted particularly to portray the progress of the rural development program during the past year when the execution of numerous projects got underway.

January 3.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay inducted three government officials in separate ceremonies held at Malacañang this morning.

Inducted were former Gov. Wenceslao G. Pascual of Rizal as a member of the board of governors of the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation; Vitaliano Bernardino, superintendent of schools of Pangasinan, as acting assistant director of the Bureau of Public Schools; and Vicente Olazo as board director of the Manila Railroad Company.

The President instructed the newly-installed officials to avoid too much red tape in their dealings with the people and their subordinates and to refrain from applying ancient standards in tackling their, day-to-day problems, especially if these would work injustice to a subordinate or the people concerned.

“Always decide on the legality and morality of each case,” the President said. “Do not fail to consider the moral angle to your problems because morality is as important as the legality of each case.” He added: “I have appointed you because I have faith “in your ability, honesty, and; integrity.”

Pascual the new RFC governor, replaces Sixto de la Costa, who retired last December 15. Bernardino took the place of former Assistant Director Benigno Aldana, who has been promoted to director of public schools. MRR Board Director Olazo replaces Felix Salem whose term of office recently expired.

Pascual had been four years governor of Rizal and chairman of a number of boards of government corporations. He has tendered his resignation to the President as chairman of the board of directors of the NAWASA. His induction this morning was witnessed by a delegation of RFC officials headed by Eduardo Romualdez, chairman of the RFC board of governors.

Bernardino has been in the government service for 30 years, starting as a school teacher. He was for 12 years division superintendent of schools assigned to Bulacan, Iloilo, Marinduque, and other provinces. For the last three years he has been superintendent in Pangasinan.

Olazo, on the other hand, is executive director of the Philippine Transport Workers, a union of employees and laborers of transportation Companies, including air, sea, and land transportation. He was inducted in the presence of a large delegation of PTW officials headed by Roberto S. Oca, president of the organization.

FOLLOWING the ceremonies, the President received Dr. Harold G. Trimble, regent of the American. College of Chest Physicians, who called to pay his respects, He was accompanied to Malacañang by Mrs. Trimble, Dr. Miguel Cañizares of the Quezon Institute, and Dr. Horace Delien, medical consultant of the ICA office in Manila. Dr. Trimble is on a brief stop-over here enroute to New Delhi, India, where he will attend an international congress from January 5 to 11.

Other callers this morning included Sen. Quintin Paredes, Reps. Tobias Fornier of Antique, Wenceslao R. Lagumbay of Laguna, and Pedro Lopez of Cebu, who just arrived from New York.

January 4.—PRESIDENT and Mrs. Magsaysay this morning received the diplomatic and consular corps and their ladies headed by the dean of the corps, Mons. Egidio Vagnozzi, papal nuncio, and exchanged with them New Year’s greetings at the diplomatic reception the Chief Executive gave in their honor.

In greeting the President, Mons. Vagnozzi said that although “your administration remains confronted with a stupendous task, we cannot but admire, Mr. President, your determination, your dedication to duty, your profound concern for the poor, for the needy, and for those who suffer.”

He continued: “The Philippines have continued in their progress, despite the difficulties and uncertainties which more or less confront every country today. They have maintained their policy of close collaboration with the democracies, while bewareing of the deceptive openings presented by an itinerant diplomacy. . . .”

In response, President Magsaysay said that as the new year began, “we turn with fresh vigor to the solution of our domestic problems.”

He gave assurance “that it shall be the earnest endeavor of our administration to work with equal vigor for the strengthening of the friendly relations that now happily exist between the Philippines and those countries which are friendly to her. Likewise, I wish to assure Your Excellencies that we shall do our part in the maintenance of peace and security in this part of the world.”

After the exchange of greetings, the President and the diplomats exchanged toasts over cups of *basi*. This was the second time that the Chief ception, the first being on January 1, 1954.

Executive used *basi*, instead of imported champagne for a diplomatic re-

Talking later to the diplomats, the President explained that the *basi* was a popular drink, especially of the Ilocanos. Apparently the diplomats relished the *basi*, some of them remarking that it was a wonderful drink.

The President was dressed in white double-breasted sharkskin suit white, shoes, and a colored tie. The First Lady wore a wine red mestizo dress with red embroidered flowers and green leaves. Some of the diplomats and their ladies were dressed in the costumes of their native countries.

THE President today received a few callers in his study room, where he retired after entertaining members of the diplomatic corps who paid a New Year's courtesy call.

The first callers were, American officials consisting of Horace Smith, U. S. Embassy charge d'affaires; Gen. Lawrence Kuter, Far East commander of the U. S. Air Force; and Maj. Gen. John Ackerman, commander of the U. S. 13th Air Force, Clark Field air base, who likewise conveyed their season's greetings.

Then the President received Gov. Arsenio Lugay of Tarlac, who presented a resolution from the provincial board of that province reiterating its support of the President's reelection. Rep. Cohstancio Castañeda accompanied Gov. Lugay to Malacañang.

A delegation composed of officials of the Philippine Normal College called to request the retention of Macario Naval as president of that institution. The President told the delegation that Naval's case was still with the PNC board of trustees. The delegation was headed by Mrs. Natividad Rogers.

Other callers this morning included Sen. Francisco Delgado and Rep. Francisco Perfecto of Catanduanes.

The President received visitors until 11 a.m.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay said this afternoon he would reshuffle soon his Cabinet "but not as extensively as has been reported" in the press, citing the name of an afternoon daily.

He told his weekly press conference at Malacañang that the most likely Cabinet change would be in the Department of Finance and that Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona would replace its present head, Secretary Jaime Hernandez.

In his proposed Cabinet revamp, the President ruled out Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, recently retired Armed Forces chief of staff, and Bulacan Gov. Alejo Santos as the next secretary of national defense.

Vargas and Santos have been prominently mentioned as contenders for the post now held by Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, particularly the retired AFP chief of staff, who was reportedly being backed by Sen. Jose P. Laurel.

The President said he was considering Vargas for appointment as head of one of the government corporations, like the Cebu Portland Cement Company or the Home Financing Commission.

He explained that the defense portfolio "is not yet vacant," hinting that Balao would remain as secretary for some time yet.

When reminded that Balao wanted to be senator and that the Nacionanalista Party executive committee had given him assurance that he would be included in the NP senatorial slate this year, the President replied, "You know how political promises are."

But he was almost certain that Aytona would be the next secretary of finance upon the retirement of Secretary Hernandez. He said Hernandez had reiterated to him his request for retirement.

He also indicated he was partial to Rodolfo Andal, general manager of the Government Service Insurance System, as the next budget commissioner to relieve Aytona.

The only difficulty, he said, is that if Andal were drafted as budget commissioner, it would not be easy to look for a competent man to replace him (Andal) as GSIS manager. The President observed that Andal was "doing well" in his present post.

The Chief Executive did not elaborate further on his proposed revamp of the Cabinet and the extent to which it would be carried.

He complained on the manner politicians were bothering him in the reorganization of the Public Utilities Commission.

He voiced his disgust over this "intervention" when he was asked why he has not yet named the six new PUC commissioners called for in the plan to reorganize the office.

The President said that he had extended the deadline for the appointment of the new commissioner to 15 days more, beginning December 28, last year, when the deadline expired.

President Magsaysay cited during the press conference the rural development program and the return to the Philippines of ownership titles to the military bases as the major accomplishments of his administration the past year.

He made this statement as he answered questions on current national and world developments propounded on him by Malacañang newsmen at his weekly press conference.

At the same time, the President disclosed a plan to undertake a large-scale reforestation project in Mindanao, necessitating on appropriation of some P25 million.

He said this was calculated to prevent the occurrence of floods as those that ravaged the Mindanao areas over a week ago causing great damage to lives and property.

The President said he considered the vigorous prosecution of his rural development program and the return to normal of peace-and-order conditions as the chief accomplishments of his administration in the domestic field last year.

He also pointed to (1) the return of ownership titles to the Philippines of U. S. military bases here and the (2) conclusion of reparations and peace treaties with Japan as his major achievements in the field of foreign relations.

In the same press conference, the President said:

1. The Cabinet "would probably adopt" the five-year economic and social development plan recommended to him by the National Economic Council.

2. He was against the "broadening of the present basis" of barter trade.

3. He would pursue a policy of attracting more foreign capital into the country and would recommend to Congress the foreign investment bill principally authored by Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez.

4. He was in favor of the so-called Eisenhower doctrine in the Middle East, expressing the hope it would prevent war and maintain peace in Asia, in the same way that the Eisenhower policy on Formosa attained that objective.

5. The proposal for a permanent international police force under the United Nations was a “good idea” but expressed doubts on how it could be financed.

6. That for “humanitarian reasons” he would welcome the settlement here of Hungarian refugees, although he added no such proposal has been received by him.

7. He has no definite plan of going to the United States.

During the hour-long meeting with the press, the President gave emphasis, to his pet rural development program which he said had provided untold benefits to the people in the barrios.

He said he would prosecute this program with more vigor this year while he also would concentrate his efforts on seeking solutions to the economic ills of the country.

Pointing to the progress in the construction of school houses, feeder roads, rural health Centers, and irrigation systems, the President also said his land reform program was working smoothly.

In underscoring his achievement in the rural areas, he said that the 150,000 additional hectares of land to be placed under irrigation by the of the current year was 120 per cent more than the total area irrigated during the past 40 years ending in 1954.

Switching to reforestation work, the President revealed he had instructed Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez to prepare the draft of a bill seeking an appropriation of P25 million for the reforestation of Mindanao.

The plan calls for a loan of P25 million, from any of the government financing institutions for raising the sum by floating government bonds.

He proposed to pay back the loan in regular amortizations to be drawn from forestry charges.

He said he had also ordered Rodriguez to enforce strictly the rules which require selective logging to prevent the indiscriminate felling of trees and thus conserve the country’s forests.

On the land reform program, the Chief Executive commented that many of the cases involving expropriation of landed estates have been referred to the courts for the determination of fair prices to the landowners.

“The Court of Agrarian Relations has proved successful,” the President observed, adding that this court has helped the tenants greatly;

He said the Government was “giving away land titles” to settlers at the rate of 50,000 a year.

In crediting the return of the bases titles to his lists of achievements, the President explained that “the titles were returned to us without having to revise the bases agreement.

January 5.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today did not receive any caller in his desire to tackle pending state matters which had piled up during the holidays.

After eating an early breakfast, the President about 8:30 a.m. started working on some papers brought to him by Executive Secretary Fortunate, de Leon. Then he held a series of conference with Press Secretary J. V. Cruz, Assistant Executive Secretaries Mariano Yenko, Jr., and Enrique C. Quema, Technical Assistant Sofronio Quimson, Financial Assistant Miguel D. Velasco, Private Secretary Noli Reyes, and other Malacañang assistants who individually consulted him on various pending matters.

Shortly before 12 noon, the Chief Executive received Agriculture Undersecretary Jaime Ferrer, who likewise consulted him on certain matters pertaining to his department.

In the afternoon, the President left Malacañang. He returned in the evening.

THE President this day signed an executive order reorganizing the Department of Commerce and Industry in accordance with Reorganization Plans Nos. 15-A and 27-A on commerce and industry.

The salient features of this reorganization are as follow:

- (1) Abolition of the Bureau of Commerce and the creation in its stead of three bureaus; namely, Bureau of Domestic Trade, Bureau of Foreign Trade, and Bureau of Industrial Promotion;
- (2) Abolition of the Cooperatives Administration Office and its conversion into a Bureau of Comperatives Administration, with no changes in the powers, duties, and functions of the former;
- (3) Establishment of regional offices, each under a regional director, to supervise and direct the operation of the department in each region; and
- (4) Creation of the Office of Coordinator for Field Service, which will supervise and integrate field operations of the various regional offices.

The reorganization of the department will mean a savings of P12,289. It was stressed that in the reorganization of the department no personnel will be laid off.

The Bureau of Foreign Trade will regulate, promote, and provide statistics and information on foreign trade. Under it will function a trade promotion division, a commodity standards division, a fiber inspection service division, and a quota-product division.

The Bureau of Domestic Trade will regulate, promote, and provide statistics and information on the domestic trade. Under it will function a market research and information division, a business assistance and promotion division, and a business licensing, registration, and regulation division.

The Bureau of Industrial Promotion will regulate, provide information and statistics and promote the development of industries, including cottage industries. It will be the central agency for all governmental activities relating to the promotion and development of home industries, outside of those which are purely educational in nature. Under it will function an industrial survey and marketing division, an industrial consultation division, and a home industries division.

The executive order provides that the Secretary will direct the orderly scheduling of transfers, changes, and other transitional actions required by the plans and by the implementing details within 60 days from the effective date of the implementing details.

January 6.– THIS first Sunday of 1957 was a quiet Sunday for the President. After hearing an early mass at the Malacañang chapel with his family in observance of the Epiphany, the President ate breakfast with his children and the First Lady.

The President spent the rest of the day in his study room, reading the Sunday papers and poring over state papers.

The Malacañang press office had nothing to report on anything coming directly from the President nor did it mention anybody or any delegation who called to consult with him on official matters or to pledge or reiterate loyalty.

January 7.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning motored to the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, and officially opened the Second International Students' Festival sponsored by the Board of Scholarships and Exchange Professors for Southeast Asia, participated in by some 25 countries all over the world.

In declaring the festival open, the President expressed confidence that the cultural affair would achieve its objective of promoting international peace and cooperation. He congratulated acting U.P. President Enrique T. Virata and Dean Andres Abejo, chairman and executive secretary, respectively, of the BSEPSA, and their committee of organizers for the success of the festival.

In a brief speech at the opening ceremonies, the President stressed cultural understanding among nations as a factor in promoting world peace.

"Nothing binds people of the world much closer than the understanding of each other's culture," the President declared.

He added, "Nothing opens the way more quickly to peace and world unity than the realization that all national cultures are based on universal foundations common to every civilization—faith in a Supreme Being, and concepts of goodness, of truth, and of honesty based on this faith,"

The President said that the people should be thankful because they do not have to submit their plans for affairs such as the Students' Festival to a "Commissar of Culture" who would make sure that the aims and details of the undertaking would follow closely the party line.

Fetched from Malacañang by Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., chairman of the U.P. Board of Regents, and Dr. Virata, the President arrived at the scene of festivities about 10 a.m. After acknowledging the raffles and flourishes offered by an honor guard formed by a unit of U.P. ROTC cadet corps, who looked smart in their grey and white uniforms, he mounted a decorated platform set up on the steps of the main entrance of the College of Liberal Arts building in which cultural exhibits of the different participating countries were on display.

The Chief Executive was introduced to the cosmopolitan gathering by Dr. Enrique Virata. Dean Abejo, who also acted as master of ceremonies delivered the opening remarks. Other features of the program included a ceremony wherein flags of all member countries of the United Nations were raised simultaneously to the accompaniment of the UN anthem played by the U.P. ROTC band.

Present at the affair were Vice-President and Mrs. Carlos P Garcia, diplomatic representatives of the countries taking part in the festival, and officials of local, and foreign universities. The affair was made highly colorful by the presence of foreign students of various races who looked resplendent in their native costumes.

After delivering a "brief speech, the Chief Executive escorted Mrs. Garcia, the wife of the Vice-President, to the entrance of the building where she cut the ceremonial ribbon. Then he entered the building and inspected the booths where exhibits of participating countries were on display."

The display consisted of books, magazines, metal and woodwork, tapestries, rugs, and other products. At the Thailand booth, the President was presented with a silver necktie pin by a charming lady, a Thai student, attired in her colorful native *sarong*. He was particularly impressed by the fine brass and silver wares on display in the booths of Oriental countries.

As he went around the display room, the President was constantly cheered by students of many lands who all wanted to shake his hands and take souvenir pictures of him with their miniature cameras.

The students' festival is being held from January 7 to 9. Among the nations participating are Argentina, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, France, Germany, Hongkong, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Korea, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States, Vietnam, and Venezuela.

The President stayed at the U.P. about 45 minutes. The state university's ROTC artillery corps boomed 21-gun salutes as the presidential car entered and as it left the U.P. campus. He returned to Malacañang about 11:30 a.m.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today signed Executive Order No. 228 extending the prohibition of the slaughter of carabaos up to June 30, 1957.

The executive order provides that permits to slaughter carabaos might be issued by the provincial commanders subject to the following conditions:

- (1) That the carabao is 20 years old or over;
- (2) That the carabao is unfit for work;
- (3) That the carabao must be inspected, personally by the provincial veterinarian and the provincial commander; and
- (4) That the provincial veterinarian and the provincial commander shall make a joint certification that the carabao is 20 years old or over and unfit for work.

The order provides that in every case where a permit to slaughter carabao is issued, the provincial commander should furnish the office of the President with copies of the pertinent papers.

The first executive order issued by the President banning the slaughter of carabaos took effect on January 31, 1954. The President issued the order so as to conserve work animals for agricultural purposes and thus contribute to the increase of production.

Data on the carabao population of the country as gathered from the Bureau of the Census and Statistics and from the division of agricultural economics showed that in 1953 the total carabao population was 2,510,110. In 1954, when the carabao slaughter ban took effect, the number jumped to 2,748,570. In 1956, the total carabao population was 3,590,600.

The carabao population for 1956 showed an increase of 575,200 head over the carabao population in 1940, which was 3,015,400.

January 8.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today appointed Lieut. General Jesus Vargas, retired AFP chief of staff, as *ad interim* chairman of the board of directors of the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority. Vargas replaces former Gov. Wenceslao G. Pascual of Rizal, who had resigned his NAWASA position following his recent appointment as a member of the board of governors of the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation.

The President also administered this noon the oath of office to Jose S. Mercado as a member of the board of administrators of the Philippine Coconut Administration. Present at the ceremony held in Malacañang was a delegation from the Federation of Coconut Planters accompanied by Rep. Leon Guinto, Jr. of Quezon.

With the delegations was Gov. Juan F. Triviño of Camarines Sur, who had just arrived from the United States, where he worked for the possible repeal of the excise tax law on coconut oil. Triviño, who had been away for three months, reported that prospects for the repeal or amendment of the law were "good," especially with a recent shift in

policy of the Eisenhower administration which, according to him, has shown some reluctance in the imposition of tariffs on imported commodities.

A 100-man delegation which included all councilors and 72 barrio lieutenants of Tarlac, Tarlac called to invite the President to be guest of honor at their town fiesta on January 20. Accompanied by Gov. Arsenio Lugay, Rep. Constancio Castañeda, and Tarlac Mayor Hipolito Castañeda, the delegation submitted separate resolutions unanimously approved by the Tarlac municipal council and the Tarlac Barrio Lieutenants' Association urging him to run for reelection "to enable His Excellency to continue the good work he is doing for the people."

A delegation from Pampanga headed by Rep. Emilio Cortez also submitted resolutions pledging their support to the President. Rep. Cortez, who acted as spokesman for the group, said: "The reason the people like you, Mr. President, is that no President since the time of President Quezon has done so much for the poor. Mr. President, I will always be for you."

Another delegation from Sorsogon accompanied by Gov. Juan Frivaldo and Rep. Salvador Encinas requested the Chief Executive to inaugurate an irrigation system, an airfield, and other newly constructed projects in their province. The group informed the President that people in their localities were clamouring to see him.

With the delegation was Mateo G. Razo, 52 years old, with whom as a boy the President used to go hunting in Castillejos, Zambales, and whom the President had not seen for about 35 years. Razo was surprised at how the President readily recognized him in the group and wondered at his good memory.

Razo's father used to work in the U. S. naval base in Olongapo and his family had lived in Castillejos, the town of his mother. When Razo was 17 years old, his father retired from the service and the family moved to Bulan, Sorsogon, his father's hometown. He has not gone back to Castillejos since, then, Razo said.

Other delegations this morning included those from Batanes, headed by Gov. Marcos Malupa and Manuel Agudo; from the sub-province of Aurora, Quezon, which included Lt.-Gov. Pedro Guerrero and Mayors David Valenzuela of Baler, Florentino Velasco of Dipaculao, and Pedro Wenceslao of Maria Aurora; from Batangas, headed by Rep. Apolinario Apacible and Mayors Exequiel Camigal of San Nicolas and Angel Desala of San Luis; from Manila, accompanied by Rep. Angel Castaño; from Iloilo, headed by Rep. Jose Aldeguer, Board Member Jesus Colmenares, and Domitilo Abordo, provincial secretary; from Laguna, headed by Gov. Dominador Chipeco and Mayor Cipriano Colago of San Pablo City; from Surigao, accompanied by Rep. Reynaldo P. Honrado and Board Member, Jose Arreza; from Marinduque, headed by Rep. Panfilo Manguerra and Mayor Lorenzo Belarmino of Sta. Cruz; from Nueva Ecija, accompanied by Rep. Celestino Juan and Mayors Antonio Vilar of Bongabon, Sofronio Geronima of Peñaranda, and Bienvenido Aves of Papaya; from Palawan, accompanied by Rep. Gaudencio Abordo and Mayor Domingo Mercado of Taytay; from Camarines Sur, accompanied by Rep. Felix Fuentebella; and from Badion, Cebu, headed by Mayor Alfonso Suerte.

The President followed a heavy schedule of callers this morning. He received visitors continuously from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at his study.

Individual callers included Reps. Justino Benito of Pangasinan, Serafin Salvador of Rizal, Felipe Abeleda of Mindoro Occidental, and Augusto Francisco of Manila; Gov. Nicanor Maronilla Seva of Albay; Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno; Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevos; and Mayor Norbarto Amoranto of Quezon City.

THE President this day issued directives aimed at implementing fully the provisions of Republic Act No. 1292 in order to encourage the vigorous growth of Filipino, retailers by offering them liberal loans. He directed:

(1) Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma to expedite the grant of the remaining P3,197,015 out of the P10 million: already made available to Filipino retailers in order to help them develop their retail business although they may lack capital to do so; and

(2) Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona to look for additional funds to be allocated to the Filipino retailers fund, which under the law has been set at P20 million.

The President took these steps towards extending the fullest aid to Filipino retailers upon being informed by the Philippine National Bank that as of the end of last year, about 98 per cent of the Filipino retailers who had borrowed money from the Filipino retailers fund deposited with the PNB had been prompt in their payments and therefore had proved themselves good financial risks. The President said that from the records submitted to him by the PNB, the Government should do all it could to extend all possible financial assistance to the Filipino retailers.

The PNB records showed as of December 31, 1956, the home office had granted P3,112,375 as loans to Filipino retailers. Out of these loans, P2,023,134.74 are outstanding and only P361 are past due. According to these figures, the percentage of the amount past due to the loans granted was .0116 per cent while the percentage of past due loans to the loans outstanding was .0178 per cent.

The PNB report further revealed that as of October 31, 1956, PNB branches and agencies had granted P3,690,009.20 to retailers. Out of these loans, P2,832,127.25 are outstanding and P31,918.43 are past due. This showed that the percentage of loans past due to the loans granted was .865 per cent and the percentage of past due loans to the loans outstanding was 1.127 per cent.

The report also showed that a total of P6,802,384.20 had been granted by the PNB throughout the Philippines, leaving the sum of P3,197,615.80 still available for Filipino retailers.

According to the records of the PNB, Filipinos who wish to become independent retailers can take advantage of the available funds to establish their businesses.

According to the law which created the Filipino retailers fund, any Filipino citizen who owns a retail store and who personally manages it can borrow the sum of P5,000 from the fund which is deposited with the PNB. The sum will be paid in five equal annual installments at 4 per cent interest. It is stipulated in the law that the interest on the loan would not be collected in advance.

The law further provides that the assets of the retail store would be mortgaged to the Filipino retailers' fund as security for the payment of the loan.

January 9.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning had breakfast with the visiting officials from Laos who paid a courtesy call. The affair was purely social.

Headed by Impeng Suryahday, secretary general to the Council of Ministers, the Laotian delegation is making an observation tour in the country.

Before the breakfast, the President received from Suryahday gifts from the delegation consisting of a silver-handled riding whip and a Laotian fabric.

The Laotian delegation was composed of Col. Ouanh Ratikoun, chief of staff of the Laotian armed forces; Maj. Kham-hou, G-2 chief; Prince Tiao Ekarat Souvannarath, (captain) secretary to the general staff; Maj. Gradla Tokyan, deputy police chief; Commissioner Chantaboun; and Vatha Pnanek-ham.

Present at the breakfast were Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Raul S. Manglapus, Brig. Gen. Pelagio A. Cruz, Col. Jose V. Banzon, military attaché to Vietnam and Laos, and Lt. Col. Jacobo Zobel, Cavalry commander.

After the breakfast, the President gave each members of the delegation an inauguration souvenir medal.

THIS morning the President received a delegation of provincial and municipal officials of Leyte which called to reassure him that all 63 mayors of the province would support him in the forthcoming presidential elections "whatever happens."

Gov. Bernardo Torres, who headed the delegation, informed the President that in the municipality of Albueria, regarded as a model town in the province, Aquilino Cantigo who had been mayor of the town for nine terms, had prepared a resolution signed, by all the voting population of the municipality endorsing the President's re-election.

According to Gov. Torres, the people had voluntarily trekked to the municipal building when they learned that a resolution was being prepared there. Town officials were forming a delegation which would come to Malacañang to present the resolution, Torres said.

Accompanied by Speaker Protempore Daniel Z. Romualdez, the Leyte delegation included former Rep. Dominador Tan, Mayors Jesus Almedo of MacArthur and Emilio Melgazo of Ilongos, Vice-Mayor Artemio Mate of Tacloban City, and other political leaders of the province.

The President later received Minister Horace Smith, charge d'affaires of the U. S. Embassy in Manila, with whom he conferred for about five minutes.

Because of the Cabinet meeting, the President limited himself to a few callers. Other visitors included Sens. Roseller T. Lim and Domocao Alonto, and Govs. Salvador Lluch of Lanao and Juan F. Triviño of Camarines Sur.

The Chief Executive convoked the regular weekly meeting of his Cabinet about 10:40 a.m.

THE President and the Cabinet at their meeting today approved the National Economic Council's formula for industrial priorities which lays down four considerations to be satisfied before industrial projects could be extended credit and dollar facilities; namely,

- (1) The net addition contributed by the project to the value of total output produced in the Country each year,
- (2) The dollar earning and saving capacity of the project,
- (3) The contribution of the project to the development of local raw material resources and supplies, and
- (4) The benefits which will be contributed by the project in the form of employment of Filipino labor.

After approving the NEC formula, the Cabinet requested the NEC to submit at the earliest possible time, with this formula as a basis, an illustrative priority listing of typical industries.

During the Cabinet meeting Health Secretary Paulino J. Garcia informed the President of the series of inaugurations, beginning this month, of five new hospitals, and hospital buildings which, he said, were further steps undertaken by the Administration in ministering to the health needs of the people

Secretary Garcia said that the following will be inaugurated: the P3 million North General Hospital, on February 16; the P350,000 Pavilion VI extension of the National Mental Hospital, on January 30; the P50 000 Cerebral Palsy building, donated by the Elks, on January 21; and the P81,000 building, another NMH pavilion donated by the Philippine Women's Medical Auxiliary Service, in the first week of February. Garcia added that an P18,000 building another construction in the National Mental Hospital which, was donated by the Ladies Inner Wheel or the Rotary Anns, was already completed and would be inaugurated soon.

Secretary Garcia said it was gratifying to note that civic organizations were cooperating with the Government's all-out program to minister to the health needs of the nation.

The President was glad these new hospital buildings would be inaugurated soon so as to provide more health facilities for the people, especially the poor. He was grateful to the civic organizations which had contributed some of these buildings which, he said, was a patriotic act. Secretary Garcia remarked that this practice in which private persons cooperated in health services was the accepted public health administration being observed in other countries of the world.

Upon representation of the health secretary, President Magsaysay approved the request of the Vietnamese minister of health for the sending of 20 Filipino physicians to South Vietnam at the earliest possible time. The doctors to be sent to South Vietnam will be under one-year contracts which are renewable. It was understood that the request would be coursed through the Department of Health.

Upon recommendation of Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, the Cabinet authorized acting Civil Aeronautics Administrator Arturo Sevilla, and another official to be named later, to travel abroad from time to time on the routes to and from Manila Flight Information Region of foreign international air carriers.

Sevilla will observe the airlines' adherence to Administrative Order No. 9, Rules of the Air, C.A.R. Part II, and to all international routes of the Philippine Air Lines, Inc., for the purpose of giving annual and semi-annual proficiency and route qualification check to pilots employed by the PAL, and to inspect maintenance facilities and equipment in those places. His travel expenses will be borne by the PAL.

The Cabinet meeting started at about 10:45 a.m. and lasted up to 12:30 p.m. It was held at the family dining room.

January 10.— ABOLITION of the tax on capital gains as a means of promoting industrialization of the country was recommended to President Magsaysay by officials of the Manila Stock Exchange during their call at Malacañang this morning.

Anselmo Trinidad, president of the MSE who acted as spokesman for the group, informed the President that elimination of the tax would encourage tremendously the investment of hoarded capital in corporate securities and would result in the formation of corporations.

Trinidad claimed that the tax was obstructing the free flow of investments, as people were often reluctant to risk their capital because of high taxes imposed on capital gains. He said that Canada, the United Kingdom, and other progressive countries of Europe did not have such taxes and that even the United States was now showing a tendency to reduce these levies on capital gains.

The President told the group he would study their petition. He sent their written memorandum to Jose D. Arañas, collector of internal revenue, for comment and recommendation.

The President received callers from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. today. For about four hours, visitors which consisted mostly of provincial delegations, filed in and out of his study in Malacañang.

Vice-Admiral Stuart Ingersoll, commander of the U. S. Seventh Fleet, called to pay his respects following his arrival in Manila aboard his flagship, the *U.S.S. Saint Paul*, a heavy cruiser. Admiral Ingersoll was accompanied to Malacañang by Rear Admiral Wendell Switzer, commander of the U.S. naval forces in the Philippines, and Minister Horace Smith, charge d'affaires of the U. S. Embassy in Manila.

Officers of the Philippine Book Lovers' Society presented the President with a plaque making him honorary president of their organization. This group was headed by Michael Goldenberg, acting society president.

Santiago E. Yap, president and general manager of the Marvex Industrial Corporation, invited the Chief Executive to be guest at the first anniversary celebration of their bicycle factory in Balintawak, Quezon City. Yap told the President that his factory was capitalized at P600,000 with about 150 workers.

Gov. Arsenio Lugay and Rep. Constancio Castañeda of Tarlac called to make final arrangements for the projected visit of the President to their province as guest at the town fiesta of their provincial capital on January 20.

The President this morning continued to receive delegations which had come all the way from the provinces to reiterate their pledges of loyalty and to urge him to run for reelection.

Mayor Norberto Monroy of Navotas, Rizal, president of the mayors' league of his province, headed a large group of mayors and other political leaders of Rizal who reassured the President he could count on their support.

This group included Mayors P. Aquino of Malabon, N. Ibuna of San. Juan, P. Cruz of Mandaluyong, M. Estrella of Makati, E. de Leon of Parañaque, P. de la Cruz of Las Piñas, E. Caruncho of Pasig, S. Tiamson of Angono, T. Bernados of Tanay, B. Liamson of Montalban, G. Fernando of Marikina, M. Tanyag of Taguig, M. Santos of Taytay, J. Flora of Pililla, H. Constantino of Baras, F. Felix of Cainta, H. Bernardino of Morong, and C. Ynares of Binangonan.

Provincial and municipal officials of Mindoro Oriental, likewise, turned up at Malacañang to submit a resolution seeking the President's reelection. In this group were Gov. Francisco Infantado, Rep. Conrado Morente, Board Members Jose Basa and Leonardo Macasaet, and all 12 mayors of the province; namely, Estanislao Brucal of Puerto Galera (president of the mayors' league), Antonio Adriatico of Calapan (vice-president), Angel Rodriguez of Bongabon (secretary), Amando Melgar of Naujan (treasurer), Dominador Madrid of Pinamalayan, Gregorio Holgado of Pola, Vicente Ramos of Baco, Marciano Roldan of Victoria, Maximo Ferraren of San Teodoro, Francisco Tamero of Roxas, Eleuterio Presto of Mansalay, and Jose Bago of Bulalacao.

Mayor Magno Gatchalian of Paombong, Bulacan, also brought along his councilors and all 78 barrio lieutenants in his town who clamoured for the President's reelection. As the group was too large to be accommodated in his study, the President received them in the more spacious reception hall of the Palace.

The Chief Executive also received Rep. Manuel Zosa of Cebu. In the course of his call, Zosa informed the President that all the mayors in his district were for him. Zosa said he found this out when he celebrated his birthday last month and had the municipal officials as guests at his residence in Cebu.

Other delegations this morning included those from Pampanga headed by Mayors Isidro Ocampo of Guagua and Marcos Padilla of Mexico; from Samar, headed by Mayor Antonio Opeña of San Julian and Councilor Placida Legion of Sulat; and from Pinamalayan, Mindoro Oriental, headed by Councilor Silvestre Ilagan.

Among individual callers were Sens. Francisco Delgado and Decoroso Rosales, Reps. Jacobo Gonzales and Wenceslao R. Lagumbay of Laguna, and Gov. Jose Briones of Cebu.

THE *ad interim* appointment of Sixto B. Brillantes as a member of the Commission on Elections was announced by Malacañang today.

Brillantes filled the position vacated by former Commissioner Rodrigo Perez, whose term had expired.

Brillantes was a former member of the National Assembly representing the second district of Ilocos Sur. He was acting governor of his province during the Osmeña regime from 1945 to 1946. He is a veteran legal practitioner in the Ilocos and in Manila.

January 11.—THE President had breakfast this morning with Mayor Sergio Osmeña, Jr., of Cebu City, who discussed with the President the need for granting more autonomy to local officials. The President was informed by Mayor Osmeña that local executives clamored for more local autonomy.

The President told Mayor Osmeña that he had always favored the giving of more autonomy to local officials.

Mayor Osmeña, as president of the Philippine Table Tennis Association, took occasion to invite the President to be the guest during the opening of the fourth biennial Asian table tennis competition on January 24 to be held in Manila.

The breakfast lasted from 8 to 9 a.m.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning administered the oath, of office to Gen. Jesus Vargas, retired AFP chief of staff, as *ad interim* chairman of the board of directors of the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority, vice former Rizal Gov. Wenceslao G. Pascual, resigned.

Witnessing the ceremony held at the President's private study were NAWASA General Manager Susano R. Negado and Rep. Tobias Fornier of Antique, both of whom happened to be at Malacañang when the Chief Executive decided to induct the new NAWASA chairman.

The President' received callers this morning in his study room. They consisted mostly of provincial officials who consulted him on matters affecting their respective provinces.

Gov. Jose Dinglasan of Capiz requested relief for flooded Capiz towns. He told the President that the recent flood in that area had done considerable damage to public buildings and crops.

The President ordered NARIC General Manager Jacinto Gavino to rush 1,500 sacks of rice to Capiz to be sold in the stricken area.

Gov. Dinglasan was accompanied by Rep. Carmen D. Consing of Capiz, who presented the Chief Executive with a cigar container made out of sea shells.

PHHC General Manager Vicente Orosa reported to the President on the progress of the construction of low-cost housing projects.

Other callers were Govs. Juan Pajo of Bohol and Esmeraldo Eco of Camarines Norte and Rep. Lorenzo Teves of Negros Oriental.

MALACAÑANG announced this day the designation of Santiago Gancayco as acting chairman of the board of administrators of the Philippine Coconut Administration (PHILCOA) in the absence of Benjamin F. Silvosa, who is currently abroad.

The designation was made upon the recommendation of the PHILCOA board of administrators.

THE rest of the afternoon, until early evening, the president worked on his state-of-the-nation message to Congress to be delivered at the opening of the next congressional session on January 28.

January 12.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today signed the appointments of seven officials in the Department of Labor in connection with the implementation of the reorganization plan of that department as outlined in an executive order issued by the Chief Executive recently.

The President also appointed Baltazar Villanueva, a practicing lawyer, as associate judge of the Court of Industrial Relations.

Labor officials appointed were Ruben Santos, as director, and Agapito Burgos and Primo Maliwanag, as members, of the Labor Standards Commission; Cesareo de Leon, Nieves Baens del Rosario, and Jose Sanchez, as directors of the Workmen's Compensation Commission; and Bernardino Aves, as labor relations director.

The President issued the appointments during the call this morning of a delegation from the Labor Press Association who brought to his attention some pressing problems in the Department of Labor. Headed by Roberto S. Teodoro of the *Bagong Buhay*, association president, the group included Nemesio Dacanay of the *Philippines Herald*, secretary; Cesar Salenga of the *Daily Mirror*, past president; and Jaime Vicente of the *Manila Chronicle*. They were accompanied by Raoul Innocentes, executive assistant in the Department of Labor.

Earlier this morning, the President received Mons. Gregorio, bishop of Palawan, who paid a courtesy call. He also received Joseph Rogers, a prosecuting attorney of the U.S. Internal Revenue, who called to say good-bye after spending several weeks' vacation here.

The President received very few callers this morning. He spent most of his time in his study poring over pending state papers brought to him by Malacañang assistants for action.

SHORTLY before 12 noon, he boarded his car and motored to Balintawak, Quezon City, where he was guest of honor at the fast anniversary celebration of the Marvex Industrial Corporation, a bicycle tire and inner tube plant.

Accompanied by Santiago E. Yap, president and general manager of the firm, the President spent about 45 minutes going around the plant, chatting with the workers and following the different stages of the production from raw-rubber to finished product. He was impressed by the high quality of bicycle tires produced in the plant.

Yap informed the President that the plant produced 550 bicycle tires and 1,000 inner tubes per day. Capitalized at P600,000, the plant employs about 150 workers. The first of its kind ever set up in the Philippines, the factory also assembles bicycles with spare parts imported from abroad and equipped with Marvex-made tires and other accessories.

The President returned to Malacañang about 1:30 p.m.

January 13.—BETWEEN 9 and 10 o'clock this morning, the President received some visitors, among them, Gerald Wilkinson, a British businessman, and United States Embassy Charge d'affaires Horace Smith. Nothing was revealed about the President's conversation with these two.

A little before 11 a.m., the President motored to Fort McKinley with Lt. Leopoldo Regis, junior aide, and went horseback riding until 12 noon.

ALTHOUGH, it was Sunday, a day of rest, the President called a press conference in the afternoon in order to clarify before an eager bunch of newsmen the hazy reports about his entering into pacts with Senators Jose P. Laurel, Claro M. Recto, and Lorenzo Tañada and the Liberal Party.

The Palace family dining room reverberated with questions about the President's political plans for 1957 and about current political events. The President answered most of the questions readily.

The press conference also touched on the contemplated reshuffle of the Cabinet and the difficulties being encountered, the CAFA suggestion to outlaw the Communist party in the Philippines, and the 1957-58 budget under preparation.

In the press conference, President Magsaysay frowned on a suggested coalition between the Nacionalista and Liberal parties with the curt remark that it would be in the interest of the country if the LP "kept its identity and remained intact." However, he expressed agreement with Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez' suggestion that if certain Liberals wanted to join the NP bandwagon, they should do so by "affiliating individually." But he told a press conference that he would make public the agreement if and when the three senators pressed him to do so.

On the question of NP-LP coalition, President Magsaysay confirmed reports that certain Liberal leaders had seen him and offered to support his administration's program. But so far, he said, he had not received a definite offer from the party.

Asked whether his acceptance of the LP offer would pave the way for an NP-LP alliance, the President made it emphatic that he wanted the minority party to remain distinct and keep its personality, "so that there should be no fear that there would be no opposition."

But while he would prefer the LP to retain its identity, the President did not close the door to his acceptance of an LP "pledge of support and cooperation" and to affiliation of individual LP members to the majority party.

He was told about former Rep. Hermenegildo Atienza's announcement that 35 of the 43 members of the LP national committee would submit to him such a pledge tomorrow.

The President said his acceptance of it would depend on what it contained and on its having no strings.

As far as he knew, the President said, the LP pledge was "a pledge to support my administration's program and not my reelection."

He added that if and when the pledge is made to him, he would have it published to prevent the public from thinking that he had promised the LP concessions in consideration for its support.

"I will turn down the offer," he emphasized, "if there are conditions attached to it. I will reject it because my acceptance of such an offer would amount to horse-trading."

The President said certain LP leaders came to Malacañang to talk to him about the pledge of support. He mentioned Rep. Cornelio Villareal, LP president, Rep. Ferdinand Marcos, and certain Liberal governors as having discussed the offer with him.

While he answered questions about the LP pledge of support readily, the President refused to comment on a supposed agreement he entered into with the LP.

He dismissed the report that he had promised the LP certain Cabinet positions in return for its support of his reelection bid as "idle rumor."

He explained that if he accepted the LP pledge of support, it would only be in consonance with a plea of Senator Jose P. Laurel for unity. He recounted that Laurel called for an integration of political parties to prevent politicking from hindering the Administration's program.

The President recalled that he followed up Senator Laurel's plea with a statement he issued January 1 to the effect that politics should be minimized this year so that administration of the government could function smoothly.

The President said unity is one way of ensuring unhampered government work and that if the LP pledge were offered in this light, he might accept it.

On the possibility of his ever running for reelection under an NP-LP alliance, the President said:

In 1953, I sought nomination as a Nacionalista; I was nominated as a Nacionalista; I ran for President as a Nacionalista; and I won as a Nacionalista. Since then, I have been a Nacionalista and I will always be a Nacionalista."

However, he said he would campaign against Nacionalista candidates who had hampered his administration's program. He particularly mentioned Rep. Mario Bengzon (N) Pangasinan).

On the reported "secret agreement" he entered into with Laurel, Recto, and Tañada in 1953, the President said that if his co-signatories pressed him into releasing the document to the public, he would do so. Otherwise, he said, he was "indifferent" to the whole thing.

The agreement in question allegedly contained a stipulation that the three senators would support President Magsaysay's election bid in 1953 but that in 1957, he should bow out if any of the three ran for election.

The President also said he knew nothing about the report that a copy of the secret pact was being kept at the local United States Embassy.

January 14.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning had breakfast with John Snyder, president of U. S. Industries, Inc., who paid a courtesy call following his arrival in the course of an observation tour in the country.

During the breakfast, the President was informed by Snyder that the U. S. Industries, Inc., planned to expand its investments in the country. Snyder said that he will tour the country shortly to explore the possibilities of implementing that plan.

President Magsaysay assured Snyder that this would be welcome because it would ease economic problems of the country.

The U.S. Industries is the mother company of 14 other major American concerns that include the Koppel, Inc., dealing mostly with heavy machinery, including bulldozers and tractors.

Present during the breakfast which lasted from 8 to 9 a.m. were CB Governor Miguel Cuaderno, RFC Chairman Eduardo Z. Romualdez, Gil Carlos, director of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, N. A. Fittinghoff, president of the Koppel (Phil.), Inc., and Charles Banks, vice-president of the U.S.I., Inc.

IN the evening, the President received the members or the San Francisco (California, U.S.A.) Ballet who called on the Chief Executive soon after their arrival in Manila for a series of four performances at the U.P. theater.

The Chief Executive received his guests at the music room and chatted with them informally. In the course of the courtesy call, Miss Eugenia Van Horn, 15, the youngest of the ballerinas, danced briefly for the President, who applauded her performance.

The ballet troupe was headed by Lew Christensen, director; Leon Kalamos, manager; Mrs. Kalamos; and David Adams, in charge of the tour. Also present were ballerina solists, Nancy Johnson, Sally Bailey, and Jocelyn Bollmar and male soloist Leon Danielien and Conrad Ludlow.

The ballet troupe was accompanied to Malacañang by Alfredo Lozano, local impresario, and by Vicente F. Barranco of the *Manila Times*.

Mr. Christensen informed the President that this was the first time a complete ballet company has made a tour round the world, touching the Philippines. He said that they, arrived in two planes from Taipeh, Formosa, carrying 11,000 tons of equipment, including scenery costumes and recorded ballet music. The ballet troupe is composed of 23 dancing members and seven persons in the technical staff.

In the course of the Conversation, the President was informed by impresario Lozano that the arrival of the ballet dancers has been enthusiastically received by the public, including the press. Lozano quipped that perhaps their presence here would mean a moratorium on political talks which instead would be replaced by the enjoyment of ballet.

The President said that he would try his best to drop in during the troupe's initial performance at the U. P. theater tomorrow evening after he was through delivering his speech before the Philippine Chamber of Industries.

He entertained his guests with refreshments.

THE President this morning received a delegation representing deans of medical colleges and universities throughout the country which informed him of the readiness of third-year medical students to offer their services free of charge, to the government in connection with the rural health improvement program of the Administration.

Dr. Narciso Monfort, a practicing physician who has been active in promoting the movement, estimated there would be about 1,500 medical students whose services could be utilized this summer vacation. He said these students could be attached to some 1,150 rural health units being maintained by the Department of Health throughout the country.

The President expressed gratification over the offer of help being extended by medical students. He said it had been part of his plan to avail himself of the voluntary services of medical students in the implementation of his policy to improve health conditions in outlying areas. He said he was glad, that civic-spirited citizens were coming forward to assist in this humanitarian project.

Dr. Monfort, who acted as spokesman for the group, said that the students would be useful in giving lectures on public health and sanitation, campaign for blood donations, and attend to diagnosis and treatment of in campaigning for blood donations, and in attending to diagnosis and treatment of simple ailments under the supervision of full-fledged physicians with the rural health teams of the Department of Health. Monfort also said that the students' services would be available only during the summer vacation. He asked that the government take care of their transportation from Manila to the places where they would be assigned, and hack, plus a little allowance for subsistence.

The President said he could utilize the facilities of the Army and the Navy for transporting the students to the rural areas. He said he would, however, find out whether he could find funds to pay subsistence allowance. He said the students could be assigned to localities at or near their hometowns so that, such an allowance would not be necessary.

The Chief Executive designated Dr. Monfort to act as liaison between the universities and the Department of Health and asked him to prepare a complete list of students willing to work in the rural areas. Other members of the delegation were Dean Jesus B. Nolasco of the Far Eastern University, Dean Alfredo Ortiz of the Manila Central University, Jesus A. Nolasco, Bureau of Health official, and Drs. Amadeo H. Cruz and Trinidad Gomez of the Rural Health Service.

Newly-elected officers of the Philippine Association of Agriculturists called to pay their respects and offer their services to the government. The President told them their association could help the Administration if they got together and formulated ways of increasing the nation's production. He invited them to return to him after a few weeks with a workable plan by which the Government could further step up the country's output in agricultural products.

This group included Dr. Jose J. Mirasol, association president and technical adviser to the National Federation of Sugarcane Planters; Eugenio E. Cruz, first vice-president and director of the Bureau of Plant Industry; Dr. Francisco O. Santos, second vice-president and assistant dean of the U.P. College of Agriculture; Francisco C. Panganiban, secretary-treasurer and chief supervisor of in the Bureau of Agricultural Extension; Francisco M. Sacay, auditor and assistant ACCFA administrator; and Juan B. Cabanos of the Bureau of Agricultural Extension and Valeriano C. Calma of the U.P. College of Agriculture, members of the board of directors.

A delegation from the Philippine Historical Society sought government assistance in the construction of a national shrine in Aklan in honor of five heroes from that new province. This group was headed by Dr. Digno Alba, one of the society directors.

A delegation of Jaycees from Candelaria, Quezon, accompanied a large group of farmers from that town who petitioned for the early construction of feeder roads in their locality. Accompanied by Luis Araneta, president of Philippine Jaycees, the delegation included Mayor Felix B. Ona and Dr. Godofredo Montecillo, president of Candelaria Jaycees.

Dr. Pedro Gil, Philippine minister to Argentina, called to say good-bye prior to his departure for his post. He was accompanied by Patria Gil-Puyat, his daughter, who would act as his personal secretary in Argentina.

New officers of the Fordham University Alumni Association called to pay their respects following their recent election. They were headed by Dr. Augusto Cortez, association president. The President is the recipient of an honorary degree from Fordham University.

Nacionalista mayors from the second congressional district of Ilocos Norte called to reiterate their support of the President's bid for reelection. Accompanied by Dr. Rizal G. Peralta, the group included Mayors Toribio Ibarra of Nueva Era, Antonio Gamel of Solsona, Patrocinio Albano of Dingras, Vicente Hernando of San Nicolas, Conrado Llaguno of Paoay, Esmeralda Agabrio of Badoc, Apolinario Magdirila of Pinili and Feliciano Asuncion of Batac.

Frank Metcalf, vice-president of the Columbian Rope Company of New York, paid the President a courtesy call following his recent arrival in Manila for a three-week stay here. He was accompanied by Merle Robie, head of the Columbian Rope office in Manila, and Antonio Floirendo, president of the Davao Abaca Producers Association.

Other delegations this morning included those from the Central Bank Employees Association, headed by Rizalino Mendoza; from the Philippine Cotton Development Corporation, headed by Harry Stonehill; from the Meralco Workers' Union, headed by Pangilalo Gaerlan; from the Northern Hills Country Club of Malabon and Caloocan, headed by Luis Manalang; from Tuba, Benguet, Mt. Province, headed by Mayor Benjamin Palispis; and from Kitao-
tao, Bukidnon, headed by Eusebio Pabulan.

The Chief Executive received callers until 12:30 p.m. Among individual callers were Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao and Lieut. Gen. Alfonso Arellano, who consulted him on problems of the Armed Forces, and Dr. Federico Sarabia of Cebu.

January 15.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today received delegation of labor leaders who protested against a proposed increase in the price of palay from P8.50 to P12.50 a sack as prejudicial to consumers, particularly the low-income groups such as the laboring class.

The labor leaders said that the proposed price increase would jack up the price of rice as well as all other prime commodities and would work considerable hardship among workers and laborers. They informed the President that they were organizing a rally to march to Malacañang to register their opposition to the proposed measure.

The labor leaders were part of a large delegation which came to Malacañang this morning to witness the induction of six labor officials in connection with the implementation of the reorganization plan of the Department of Labor. Composed mostly of officials and employees of the Department of Labor, the delegation was headed by Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevosos and Labor Undersecretary Agapito Braganza. Also with the group were Reps. Angel Castaño of Manila and Constancio Castañeda of Tarlac.

The labor leaders With the group included Jose Hernandez of the Philippine Trade Unions Council, Eulogio Lerum of the National Labor Union, Roberto Oca of the Philippine Transport Workers Union, Ignacio Lacsina of the National Association of Trade Unions, Cipriano Malonzo of the Mindanao Federation of Labor Unions, and Vicente Arniego of the National Textile Workers Union.

Those who took their oath before the President were Ruben Santos and Primo Maliwanag as director and member, respectively, of the Labor Standards Commission; Cesareo de Leon as director; Mrs. Nieves Baens-del Rosario and

Jose Sanchez as members of the Workmen's Compensation Commission; and Bernardino Abes as labor relations director.

As the labor leaders were protesting against the proposed increase in the price of palay, the Price Support Committee previously formed by the President to study the problem, submitted its report and recommendations. Contents of the report were, however, not announced pending study by the President.

The committee is composed of Budget Commissioner Dominador Aytona, chairman; Sen. Alejo Mabanag, Rep. Rogaciano Mercado of Bulacan, Gov. Conrado Estrella of Pangasinan, and NARIC General Manager Jacinto Gavino, as members.

The President received callers at his study until 12:30 p.m.

Yoshiaki Hatta and Karunori Nakamura, president and managing director, respectively, of the International Engineering and Development Company of Tokyo, called to submit a written proposal that their firm undertake the, projected P50 million multi-purpose project in Marikina, Rizal, under the reparations agreement between the Philippines and Japan.

Accompanied by Filemon Rodriguez, retired chairman of the National Economic Council and presently president of the Philippine Engineering and Development Corporation, Hatta, who was former communications minister of Japan informed the President that he had already sounded off Japanese officials and that the Japanese Government had no objection to his firm's undertaking the project provided the Philippine Government consented to the proposal.

The proposed government project consists of setting up a dam on the Marikina River. It is called a multi-purpose project because the proposed dam is designed to conserve water for irrigation during the summer seasons, to serve as a source of water supply, and to prevent floods in Manila and suburbs on account of the over-flowing of the Pasig River into which the Marikina River empties.

The President referred the Japanese firm's proposal to Public Works' Secretary Florencio Moreno for comment and recommendation.

Earlier, this morning, the President had breakfast with Patrick Delaney, father of Rev. John Delaney, S.J., whose death last year cut short a colorful religious career in this country. The elder Delaney paid a courtesy call at Malacañang before returning to the United States after spending some time here visiting places where his son had worked. He was accompanied to the President by Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., and Dean Andres Abejo of the U.P. College of Liberal Arts.

Then the President received Vice-Admiral Sir Alan K. Scott-Moncrieff, commander of the British Navy in the Far East, who likewise called to pay his respects following his arrival in Manila aboard the HMS *Alert* for a week long goodwill visit here. He was accompanied to Malacañang by Ambassador George Clutton of the British Legation in Manila, and Lt. Col. Jacobo Zobel, AFP foreign relations officer.

Presidential callers this morning were made up mainly of provincial delegations which sought aid for their respective localities.

Rep. Felipe Garduque of Cagayan sought the inclusion of his province in a proposed measure to be recommended for enactment in the forthcoming regular session of Congress, appropriating funds for typhoon-ravaged provinces in Visayas and Mindanao.

Rep. Marciano Lim of Samar headed another delegation from his province which requested P20,000 for the construction of a road and P10,000 for the establishment of a puericulture center.

Rep. Vicente L. Peralta and Gov. Juan Frivaldo of Sorsogon asked assistance for the recent flood victims in their province.

Other delegations were those from Pampanga headed by Gov. Rafael Lazatin, Rep. Diosdado Macapagal, and Mayor Isidro Ocampo of Guagua; from Cavite, accompanied by Rep. Jose Cajulis and ex-Senator Justiniano Montano; from Camarines Norte, headed by Rep. Fernando Pajarillo and former Gov. Wilfrido Panotes; from Cotabato, headed by Sen. Domocao Alonto and Mayor Datu Bara Lidason of Parang; from Bataan, headed by Board Members Raymundo Galicia and Faustino Vigo and ex-Gov. Adelmo Camacho; from Mindoro Occidental, headed by Gov. Mariano Tajonera, Board Member Cosme Tria, and former Rep. Jesus Abeleda; from Isabela, headed by Rep. Samuel F. Reyes and Mayors Domingo Mariano of Cordon and Eugenio Guillermo of Angadanan; and from Agusan, headed by Rep. Guillermo Sanchez.

MALACAÑANG announced today *ad interim* appointments occasioned by the transfer of judges of courts of first instance. The transferred judges are as follows:

Juan Enriquez and Antonio Cañizares of Pasig, Rizal, were appointed to the Manila court of first instance to fill the vacancies created by the previous appointments of Ramon San Jose and Vicente Santiago to the Court of Appeals.

The other vacancy in the Manila CFI created by the death of Judge Fidel Ibañez was filled by the appointment of Ramon Nolasco, present judge of the court of first instance of Cebu.

The vacancies in the court of first instance of Pasig, Rizal, were filled by the appointments of Eulogio Mencias of Malolos, Bulacan, and Gustavo Victoriano of Lucena, Quezon.

Agustin Montesa of the CFI in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija, was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the transfer of Mencias to Pasig.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this evening promised Filipino industrialists full government protection and assistance in such measure as would guarantee security to their investments.

He also assured a gathering of the Philippine Chamber of Industries that "There shall be no further extensions of government to those fields of business where private capital has clearly demonstrated its willingness to invest and its ability to manage."

The President made these statements at the monthly general meeting of the PCI at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel where he was the principal speaker this evening,

However, in giving free rein to private enterprise, the president said "those essential services like the railroad and arrastre service" should be exempted.

"I honestly believe that the general welfare would best be served if these devices remained in government control," the President said.

He added: "I shall look with disfavor on all efforts to subject existing businesses to unfair competition from government. I shall fight any attempt to treat lightly or to revoke, unless for the gravest cause, the various privileges of business that government has given and that play a vital role in the security of your investments. "

Then he mentioned franchises, certificates of tax exemption, licenses to exploit mineral resources, rights to the use of public lands and privileges to foreign exchange as among the "solemn commitments of government" that must be preserved and guaranteed to preserve a healthy climate for investments.

The President then challenged his audience to provide the necessary initiative in the joint efforts to accelerate the country's industrial development.

He said:

“The government has plans and ambitions. But it has no illusions. The government can only provide the favorable climate for investments. It can only offer ready facilities to prospective investors. But in a free enterprise economy such as ours, you must provide the initiative. We realize that the success or failure of our programs will in the last analysis depend on your vision, on your sincerity, on the skill and the competence with which you engage in strategic investment projects.”

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

President's Month in Review: January 16-31, 1957

Official Month in Review: February 1 – February 14, 1957

February 1.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning told two American officials of a. leading rope factory in New York that the Philippines was going to undertake measures to increase local abaca production in order to meet the market demand in the United States and some other countries.

In a breakfast conference with Frank Metcalf, vice-president of the Columbian Rope Factory of New York; Merle Robie, vice-president of the Manila office of the same factory; and Antonio Floirendo, president of the Davao Abaca Producers Association, the President said that the Philippines expected to increase her abaca produce.

The President was informed by the American rope factory Executives that there was an indication of pressure in the United States for the revival of the abaca plantations in South America as a source for United States consumption. They said that there was not enough supply of Philippine abaca for the United States and the world market.

In answer, the President said that the Philippine Government was going to take action to increase abaca production in order to meet the market demand in the United States and other countries.

Floirendo, who accompanied the American businessmen, suggested to the President that as one of the measures for the increased production of abaca, the Government should set aside 50,000 hectares of land between Agusan and Davao for abaca exclusively. The President said he was going to study the suggestion.

The president of the Davao Abaca Producers Association also informed President Magsaysay that the price of abaca had gone up from P35 to P54 a picul.

AFTER his breakfast with the businessmen, the President received the members of the Philippine-Japan Economic Association who assured him that they would work for the maintenance of a continuous friendly economic and cultural relations between the Philippines and Japan. The President congratulated the members of the association for their efforts in helping to maintain friendly relations between the Philippines and Japan.

Headed by Senator and Mrs. Hideo Konishi, the members of the association who called on the President included Ichiro Wuchida, Kenichiro Yamamoto, Iwaemon Tamura, Shoichi Yanase, Tomoatsu Teshima, Fuki Hatakeyama, Takataro Noguchi, Kanichi Ishii, and Akisada Okanishi. The members of the association are businessmen and officials of the Japanese Government.

Another caller of the President was Hiroichi Takagi, director of the Reparations Division of the Japanese Foreign Office in Tokyo, who paid his respects. Takagi is here for conferences with government officials in connection with the delivery of reparations goods from Japan.

After receiving the Japanese officials, the President conferred with NARRA official. The Chief Executive approved the plan of the officials to resume resettling of settlers in the resettlement projects at Wao and Maramag in Mindanao. The President, who expressed satisfaction with the work of the present NARRA officials, said "You are now working smoothly." Present at the conference were Board Chairman Remedios O. Fortich, General Manager Luis Franco, Board Secretary Delfin Manlapid, Comptroller Oscar Sarte, and Maj. Arturo Lotho, financial adviser.

Other callers of the President included Sens. Edmundo Cea and Decoroso Rosales, Rep. Eladio Balite of Samar, Minister Manuel Escudero, Councilor Victor Clapano, and Fermin Abella of Davao City, who requested for the waterworks system in their city.

AT noon, the President was luncheon host to Benjamin Fairless and his group of American businessmen who are in a survey tour of the Philippines in connection with the United States aid program.

The President asked Fairless to increase the dollar aid to the Philippines and suggested that one way this could be done was to exempt the payment in dollars of capital goods brought here from the United States.

At 5 o'clock in the afternoon the President held his weekly press conference with Malacañang newsmen who peppered him with questions on current political developments and problems of administration.

At the press conference the President challenged Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson to substantiate his attacks on alleged abuses of the Nacionalista administration.

"Let Lacson come out and prove his charges, let him name names," the President said in flustered mood when he was asked to comment on the Manila Mayor's recent speech in which he scored what he claimed were excesses of the Administration.

At the same time, President Magsaysay indirectly hit his presidential rival, Sen. Claro M. Recto, when he corrected a report in the latest issue of *Time* magazine written by an American journalist who was in Manila recently.

He said it was not Sen. Jose P. Laurel, who with Sen. Lorenzo Tañada, egged him sometime in 1953 into leading a military *coup d'etat* against the Quirino administration but Recto himself and Tañada.

Informed of the President's statement, Recto and Tañada branded it a "deliberate falsehood."

Senator Recto said he never talked with the President, who was then secretary of national defense in the Quirino Cabinet, "on those matters."

Lacson's accusations were brought up in the press conference when a newsman reminded the President of the charge of the mayor that certain NP leaders were enriching themselves in office.

The President said he had not read Lacson's charge, but he dared the mayor to offer proof of his accusations and pinpoint the people he was referring to.

Another object of the President's angry denial was the report, also attributed to Lacson, that, the Government was employing newspapermen in an effort to gag them.

He said the charge that his administration was maintaining a "kept press" was not true and again challenged Lacson to particularize his accusations.

He said newsmen on the Malacañang beat do not receive pay from the government, although he knew the plight of newspapermen whom he wanted to help but could not.

Again he was reminded that it was common knowledge that certain newspapermen are holding jobs as directors of government corporations.

For an answer, the President singled out Eugenio E. Santos, general manager of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, and said that, perhaps, Santos "would get sick if he does not write his column."

While holding the job of sweepstakes manager, Santos conducts his old column in a local afternoon daily.

During the press meet, the President touched on the following points:

1. He was against postponement of the 1957 elections, stating he would not take advantage of any extension of his term beyond the eight years provided in the Constitution.
2. He said the next budget he would recommend to Congress would be "balanced" as far as the operating expenses of the government are concerned. However, he added, appropriations for capital investments would be based on what he termed "judicious public borrowing."

3. He denied the charge that he would avail of the services of the Constabulary to promote his reelection. The President emphasized that it was for the reason that the PC chief, Brig. Gen. Manuel Cabal, in his brother-in-law that he was against the immediate transfer of the PC to the proposed Department of the Interior. He said the transfer would be made when "the proper time comes," which, he indicated, would be after the elections.

Commenting further on the move to defer the elections, the President said he was in favor of the proposal two years ago, but that it was "too late now to do it" because there was no more time to discuss intelligently the proposal and hold a plebiscite afterwards.

THIS afternoon the President accepted the resignation of Manuel P. Manahan as commissioner of customs, effective at the close of business hours today.

The President, at the same time, nominated Eleuterio Capapas, assistant customs commissioner, to succeed Manahan.

In his letter of resignation dated January 31, 1957, Manahan explained that his abandonment of his business interests the last three years while in the service of the government had resulted in losses and that he faced the dismal prospect of greater losses unless remedial measures could be effected at once.

The President, in his letter of acceptance, thanked Manahan "for the loyalty and devotion to duty which you always displayed in the performance of your functions; first, as chairman of the Presidential Complaints and Action Committee, and later; as commissioner of customs.

"In both capacities, you rendered invaluable service to the government which will serve as an inspiration to all public servants who mean to dedicate themselves to the public interest and do their best in their assigned task," the President said in his letter to Manahan.

February 2.—TODAY being Saturday, there were no scheduled callers at Malacañang, and the President had almost the whole day to himself.

In the morning the President conferred with Palace assistants on routine administrative matters. Later he had lunch with Press Secretary J. V. Cruz.

ABOUT 4 o'clock in the afternoon, Budget Commissioner Dominador R. Aytona came and conferred with the President for over an hour in the Chief Executive's bedroom. They discussed the budget for the fiscal year 1957-1958 now under preparation.

In the conference, the President reiterated his policy to Aytona that in order to accelerate the government's social and economic development program, the fiscal and economic policies must be bold and forward-looking but at the same time prudent and discreet.

While no figures were available, as the budget examiners were still in the process of summarizing the budget estimates, the President said that the government would achieve a balanced budget for general operations and would make every effort to obtain revenues sufficient to meet planned obligations or reduce commitments accordingly.

The President added that the Government would engage in a policy of judicious public borrowing to finance economic development within a context of essential monetary stability. Such borrowings, he added, would be used exclusively, for income-creating or other productive capital expenditures to finance priority ranking projects directly contributing to industrial and agricultural production.

Commissioner Aytona said that the problems on non-inflationary financing of social and economic development was faced squarely and realistically in the preparation of the five-year fiscal plan. He added that the government

would not be attracted by transitory schemes with Utopian appeals of prosperity through a policy of unlimited spending, nor would it be deterred by a policy of excessive caution.

Aytona expressed confidence in the soundness of the government's fiscal policy. "They will serve," he said, "as a foundation for the government's national development effort. They have been formulated in the knowledge that the manner in which the government budgets its expenditures and raises the funds to finance them affect profoundly national income, prices, production, and employment.

February 3.—EXCEPT for his speaking engagement before a gathering of veterans, the President kept himself in the Palace the whole day today. Between snatches of reading and resting, he went over pending state papers brought to his study by Palace assistants.

ABOUT 10 a.m. the President was fetched from Malacañang by Mrs. Florinda I. Barceaos, and Maj. Cirilo Bautista, members of the CONVETS board of directors, and taken to the Far Eastern University auditorium, where the veterans were holding their 11th National Convention.

As the President entered the convention hall, he was given a standing ovation. In the crowd could be spotted decrepit veterans in their *rayadillos*.

In a brief extemporaneous speech in Tagalog before a large gathering of veterans who attended the plenary session of the eleventh national convention of the CONVETS at the Far Eastern University auditorium this morning, the President said that he would support the veterans in their fight to "return to their normal pursuits in life" and that he would continue working to secure for them additional benefits.

The President said that the courage and loyalty which the veterans had shown in the last war made the veterans' cause worthy of attention. He added that the country needed their courage in shaping our national destiny. He urged the veterans to participate actively in the fight for good government.

The speech was followed by an open forum during which the President discussed among other things (1) the welfare of the veterans of the Revolution of 1896; (2) amendments of some laws in both the Philippine and the U.S. Congress affecting veterans; and (3) the recognition of deserving guerrillas.

The President said that the move to increase the pension of the veterans of 1896 had gained headway. He assured his support of the move.

Regarding the amendments of some laws affecting the veterans, the President said that efforts were now being exerted in that direction. He pointed out that during his conference last year in Malacañang with U.S. Congressman Olen Teague, chairman of the House veterans affairs committee who had toured the Far East to look into the plight of veterans, they had discussed lengthily amendments of laws affecting veterans in order to give them more benefits.

The President, however, cautioned against hasty recognition of guerrillas. He said that a careful screening should be made in order to eliminate the names of impostors in the roster of deserving guerrillas.

After the open forum, the President awarded plaques to "outstanding men for 1956" as voted by the CONVETS. They were Lorenzo M. Tañada, outstanding senator; Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson, outstanding public official; Joaquin R. Roces, outstanding representative; Gregorio Licaros, exemplary public servant; Carlos Palanca, civic leader; Augusto Espiritu, promoter of rural banks; Teodoro F. Valencia, Teodoro Locsin, and Ernesto Granada (absent), outstanding newspapermen; and Luis Araneta, who represented the Jaycees, for launching "Operations Brotherhood."

The President returned to Malacañang at 12:15 p.m.

February 4.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay told faculty members and students of the University of the Philippines that the members of U.P. Board of Regents should be given enough time to select a president of the state university because “there are several good candidates for the position.”

The President assured the faculty members and the students that there was no politics in the selection of a new president for the state university.

The U.P. faculty members and students inarched to Malacañang and requested the President to take a hand in the selection of a new president for the university which position has been vacant since the resignation of Dr. Vidal A. Tan.

The President said that he could not intervene in the actuations of the board of regents in accordance with law which specifies that the U.P. president should be selected by the board of regents.

“Give a chance to the board of regents because there are several good candidates and it is difficult on the part of the board to select the best one. I assure you there is no politics in the selection of your new president,” the Chief Executive said.

Informed by a member of the faculty that it was difficult on the part of the university not to have a president and that Dr. Enrique T. Virata, acting U.P. president, is also a nominee for the U.P. presidency, the President said that Virata should impress the board that he is worthy of the position. One of the faculty members charged that Dr. Virata was only trying to please the board of regents in his actuations.

The President also said that the president of the state university should be a man with a lot of courage.

The President advised the faculty members that they should also make their own recommendations and suggestions to the board of regents on who would be best qualified for the U.P. presidency. “Make suggestions of your own so that not only the big names will be included among the candidates for the position. How about those not as well known but who are more qualified?” the President said.

The delegation from the state university was headed by Dean Jose Belmonte of the College of Commerce and Business Administration, Dr. Alfredo Lagmay, Dr. O. D. Corpuz, Dr. Amado Castro, Miss Presentacion Perez, Jose Masakayan, *Philippine Collegian* editor, and Manuel Abello, Jr., and Mario Camacho, student leaders. They presented to the President a copy of the *Philippine Collegian*, official publication of the student body of the University of the Philippines, bearing a headline decrying the delay in the selection of a new president of the university.

Before his conference with the U.P. faculty members and students, the President received a delegation from Quezon City accompanied by Blas Ople. The members of the delegation claimed that their real estate property in Project 6, Quezon City, was sold by the J. M. Tuason Estate to the People’s Homesite and Housing Corporation before the outbreak of World War II. They complained that the PHHC, which is now in the process of enlarging Project 6, had been demolishing their houses with bulldozers. They told the President that they had Spanish grant titles to show that the land sold by J. M. Tuazon and Co. to the PHHC was rightfully theirs. The president told the complainants to await the outcome of the case filed by them in court.

A Malacañang investigator who was assigned to look into the complaints of the land-owners, said that while the complainants had Spanish grant titles to their names entitling them to the land, J. M. Tuason also had torrens titles to the land in question. The President ordered further investigation of the case and directed that the PHHC should suspend further construction in the area until the case in court is decided. He also stopped the PHHC from demolishing the dwellings of the complainants.

Among the many callers of the President were the officers and members of the League of Administration Executives. The President inducted the officers of the league and congratulated them for organizing themselves. The

officers inducted by the President were Antonio G. Perez, president; Victor A. Lim, vice-president; Canuto G. Manuel, secretary; Conrado R. Pascual, treasurer; Francisco M. Sacay, PRO; Simeon M. Gopenco, legal adviser; and Emilio M. Asistores, Manuel O. Hizon, and Conrado P. Sevilla, directors.

Also inducted by the President were the officers of the National Telecommunication and Postal Employees Federation headed by Generoso Madrigal, president. The employees assured the President that they would continue rendering efficient service to the government. They were accompanied by Rep. Angel Castaño of Manila.

Dr. Ricardo Pascual accompanied a delegation from barrio Dampalit, Malabon, Rizal, which requested the President for a school site for their barrio. The President said that he would study the matter with the mayor of Malabon and the governor of Rizal.

Officers of the Manila chapter of the World Brotherhood also called on the President and witnessed the signing of a proclamation declaring the period from February 17 to 24, 1957, as Brotherhood Week. The World Brotherhood, Manila chapter, members who witnessed the signing of the proclamation were Dr. Vidal A. Tan, Mrs. Alicia Feria-Winn, Arturo Tangco, Jr., Tomas C. Benitez, and Dr. Olimpio Villacorta.

Maj. Gen. Calixto Duque, Brig. Gen. Florencio Selga, Brig. Gen. Alberto Ramos, all retired, and Mrs. Pilar Normandy also saw the President and informed him about their plan to establish a fishing company.

The President accepted the invitation of the officers of the National Press Club to be the guest of honor at the Gridiron Dinner to be held at the NPC building on February 10. Those who extended the invitation to the President were NPC President Jose D. Aspiras and Cita Trinidad.

Members of the Democratic Society of the Philippines were also among the callers of the President. Jose Barredo, head of the members of the society, informed the President about the purposes of the society.

Other callers of the President included Rep. Floro Crisologo and members of the Cabugao, Ilocos Sur, PTA, members of the Pasay City MPM, Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevoso, Gov. Juan Triviño of Camarines Sur, and Gov. Conrado Estrella of Pangasinan.

The President received callers up to about 1 p.m. and then had lunch with officials and leaders of Agusan with whom he discussed local matters, including the progress of the rural improvement program in the province. Among those present at the luncheon were Rep. Guillermo R. Sanchez, Gov. Felixberto Dagani, City Mayor Zacarias Pizarro, Vice-Mayor David Rosales, and Councilors Matias Lupoz, Gabriel Banaag, Godiardo Guillen, and Democritus Plaza of Butuan City, Mrs. Lutgarda Alviola, Mrs. Fortunato Artega, Butuan City Engineer Basilio Somodebila, Agusan District Engineer Felix Cendilla, and others.

Early in the morning, the President had breakfast with Celso Al. Carunungan and Prof. Alejandro Roces.

President Magsaysay today signed two proclamations declaring the period from February 17 to 24, 1957, as Brotherhood Week and February 9, 1957, as a special public holiday in the province of Ilocos Sur. February 9, 1957, is the 120th birth anniversary of Father Jose Burgos, who was born in Ilocos Sur on February 9, 1837.

In declaring Brotherhood Week, the President said that "with the advent of the atomic age, it has become exceedingly important that the truth of the universal brotherhood of man under God as sanctioned by morality, religion, and science be upheld and the concept of the World Family of Man implanted in the minds and hearts of all peoples."

Brotherhood Week will be observed in Asia, Europe, North America, and other regions of the world on February 17-24, 1957, for the 23rd successive year. The President called upon all the people of the Philippines, regardless of race, religion, class, or creed, to join the observance of the week in order to increase the understanding, promote the goodwill, and secure the cooperation necessary to achieve universal peace and prosperity.

THE President this morning granted another 15-day reprieve to convict Victor de Vega, who was scheduled to die in the electric chair today after the expiration of the first 15 days' stay of execution given him.

The President stayed the execution of Vega for another 15 days after talking to former Rep. Jose Topacio Nueno. The President's order was immediately transmitted to Muntinglupa by Judge Salvador V. Esguerra, Malacañang legal adviser.

The execution of Vega was first stayed by the President last month upon the representation of Nueno. In another audience with the President this morning, Nueno petitioned that the convict be given another 15 days. The President granted the additional 15 days' stay of execution in order to have more time to study the Vega case more thoroughly.

OFFICIALS of the La Union plant of the Cebu Portland Cement Company in Bacnotan this morning presented to Malacañang a resolution, signed by all the officials and employees, requesting that if the proposed sale of the plant be finally consummated they should be granted certain benefits and privileges.

As they could not immediately see the President, their resolution was left with the Office of the Executive Secretary for presentation to the Chief Executive.

The delegation was headed by Zosimo R. Falcon, plant superintendent. Others in the delegation were Romualdo Dumuk, sales supervisor; Antonio Franco, mill auditor; Dr. Daniel Galvez, CEPOC union president; Salvador Dacanay, CEPOC union secretary; and Dr. Bienvenido Nebres.

The President today directed Chairman Manuel Castañeda of the Land Tenure Administration to expropriate immediately a total of 171,849 square meters of land in Manila affecting 1,191 dwelling houses and benefiting about 7,145 families.

The President's order of immediate expropriation followed a report of Castañeda saying that ejection and demolition orders were already pending execution in the different estates against the occupants.

The estates ordered expropriated by the President were the Samia estate in the 1st district of Manila with an area of 19,000 square meters and with 1,045 dependents; the Tambunting-Legarda estate in the 1st and 2nd districts of Manila with an area of 80,000 square meters and with 3,500 dependents; the Consuelo Vda. de Prieto estate in the 3rd district of Manila with a total area of 42,849.94 square meters and with 500 dependents; and the Eusebio Carlos estate in the 4th district of Manila with an area of 30,103.70 square meters and with 2,100 dependents.

Castañeda recommended the expropriation of the estates under Republic Act No. 1162, as amended by Republic Act No. 1599. He said that upon expropriation of the estates, the LTA will immediately subdivide and distribute the land among the tenants.

The estimated costs of the four estates follow: Samia estate, P600,000; Tambunting-Legarda estate, P1,000,000; Consuelo Vda. de Prieto estate, P800,000; and the Eusebio Carlos estate, P320,000.

Castañeda was directed by the President to proceed with the immediate expropriation of the estates with a view to subdividing and distributing them among the tenants. The LTA chairman reported that immediate action was necessary because ejection and demolition orders were already pending execution in the four estates against the tenants.

IN the afternoon the President praised local initiative and industry when he congratulated the owners and workers of the Genato Commercial Company for their efforts in pioneering in the manufacture of meat products which contribute to the government P600,500 annually in taxes.

The President, accompanied by Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma, inspected the plant of the meat manufacturing company on R. Hidalgo Street and expressed admiration for the quality meat products being manufactured.

The Chief Executive went through the plant where the workers were putting out on the assembly line pork and beans, salamis, frankfurters, ham, and *chorizos*. As these products formed a great part of the country's imported food products, the President observed that the company was saving that much from the annual importation.

Mr. and Mrs. Florentino Genato, owners of the company, and Vicente Ballesteros, sales promotion and advertising manager, took the President and Secretary Ledesma to the different parts of the plant and showed the machinery actually putting out the meat products. Aside from the meat products, the company is also canning coffee products, using native coffee to fill 50 per cent of their requirements.

The President stayed one hour moving from one section to another and observing the different products as they were turned out ready for sale to the public. He was so impressed by the finished product that Malacañang should purchase locally-made products like those manufactured at the Genato factory.

When the President came to the section canning pork and beans, he said that the Armed Forces could use plenty of this kind of product. He suggested that Mr. Genato contact his suppliers of beans and urge them to plant more so that there would be enough to meet Armed Forces demands.

Mr. Genato told the President that because of the expansion of his company he had acquired some five hectares in Marikina, Rizal, where he would move his plant so that it could put out more products. The President suggested that the company should advertise more its products so that more people would know about them. Before leaving the plant the President and Secretary Ledesma congratulated the company for its work in contributing to the development of the country's economy. They expressed the hope that more companies would pioneer in similar industries.

Mr. Ballesteros fetched the President and Secretary Ledesma from Malacañang about 5:25 p.m. Others in the presidential party were Assistant Press Secretary Guillermo V. Sison and Lt. Leopoldo Regis, presidential aide. The President returned to Malacañang at 6:40 p.m.

At 8 o'clock in the evening the President had a dinner conference with House leaders on vital bills pending in Congress. Present were Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Speaker Protempore Daniel Z. Romualdez, Majority Floor Leader Arturo M. Tolentino, and Legislative Secretary Jose Nable.

February 5.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today took steps to insure the admission of an increased number of children expected to seek enrollment in public schools next school year as he instructed Budget Commissioner Dominador R. Aytona to include in the next budget appropriation the creation of 3,500 new extension classes.

The President this morning held a conference with members of the House committee on education, public school officials, and the budget commissioner for the purpose of discussing means of accommodating all children of school age and improving the system of education in the public schools.

The Chief Executive disclosed that the Government used to create only 1,200 new classes yearly. However, since 1954, 3,000 new classes have been included in the budget annually. He proposed that this figure be further increased to 3,500 this year to cope with the constantly increasing number of children seeking to enroll in the public schools.

The President, during the conference, also instructed Commissioner Aytona to recommend for next year's budget the inclusion of P2,350,000 for the purchase of additional textbooks, P2 million of which would be used by the old classes and the remaining P350,000, by the proposed 3,500 new extension classes.

Other topics taken up at the conference which lasted from 8:30 to 10 a.m. were the:

(1) Possibility of obtaining from Japan under the reparations agreement machinery for the use of vocational schools;

(2) Feasibility of obtaining a P2 million loan from the Government Service Insurance System for the purchase of additional textbooks; and

(3) Legality of transferring the supervision and administration of school buildings from the Department of Public Works and Communications to school officials, particularly the division superintendents of schools.

It was pointed out during the conference that vocational schools in the country were greatly handicapped by lack of machinery and other equipment for training purposes. The President said he would look into the possibility of obtaining the needed equipment from Japan under the reparations agreement.

It was further pointed out that the P2,350,000 proposed in the new budget for textbooks would be insufficient to meet the requirements of public schools. The President thought of obtaining a P2 million loan from the GSIS under a 10-year amortization plan and told Aytona to include the plan in next year's budget.

The transfer of the supervision and control in the construction of school buildings to school authorities was discussed at the conference, as the Department of Public Works and Communications, which, by law, had this power, was reported to be insisting on pre-war specifications which were more expensive and less functional.

The insistence of district engineers on the old plan for school construction was considered a serious obstacle to the erection of less expensive buildings badly needed in many localities. It was pointed out that the school building program of the Administration would be bolstered if construction of schools costing not more than P10,000 be left to school officials who could always count on the cooperation of Parent-Teachers Associations.

The President instructed Judge Salvador Esguerra, Malacañang legal adviser, to find out whether the proposed transfer could be effected by executive order. He also asked Esguerra to draft the necessary bill if legislation was necessary to effect the transfer.

Others present at the conference were House Majority Floor Leader Arturo M. Tolentino; Rep. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz, chairman of the House committee on education; Rep. Reynaldo Honrado of Surigao, vice-chairman; Reps. Panfilo Manguera of Marinduque, Domingo Veloso of Leyte, Alberto Ubay of Zamboanga del Norte, Ismael Veloso of Davao, Manuel Enverga of Quezon, Jose Parayno of Pangasinan, Pio Duran and Tecla Ziga of Albay, Joaquin R. Roces of Manila, Lorenzo Teves of Negros Oriental, Marciano Lim of Samar, and Cesar Fortich of Bukidnon; Education Undersecretary Martin Aguilar, Jr., Benigno Aldana, Pedro Guiang, and Cayo Manzo, director, assistant director, and chief of the school plant division, respectively, of the Bureau of Public Schools.

When the conferees broke up at 10 a.m., the President continued his conference with Commissioner Aytona on other aspects of the proposed budget for the ensuing fiscal year. He also conferred with other Malacañang assistants who consulted him on pending routine matters.

SCHEDULED callers this morning were received by Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia on the request of the President.

Rep. Fernando Pajarillo of Camarines Norte accompanied a delegation composed of Mayor Benjamin Llamanzares and councilors of San Vicente. The group urged the abolition of the 7 per cent tax imposed on gross profits on agricultural products; such as, copra, abaca, and sugar.

Another delegation from San Jose, Nueva Ecija, headed by Catalino Maravilla sought the release of a 3,600 hectare forest land for agricultural purposes so that some 700 families, many of which had lived and worked the land for 20 years, could obtain title to the property.

The Vice-President received callers at the President's study until 12:30 p.m. Other delegations included those from Isabela, headed by Rep. Samuel F. Reyes and Mayor Patricio Ramos of Echague; from Quezon, headed by Rep.

Leon Guinto, Jr., and Mayor Pedro Francia of Angdañagan; from Pangasinan, accompanied by Rep. Amadeo Perez; and from Cavite, accompanied by Rep. Jose T. Cajulis.

Among individual callers were Sens. Francisco Delgado and Quintin Paredes.

February 6.—THE President spent the whole day today going over the items of the proposed budget with Budget Commissioner Dominador R. Aytona. To confine his attention to his study, he skipped presiding over the weekly meeting of his Cabinet, slipped out of the Palace at about 10 a.m., and boarded the presidential plane *Mount Pinatubo* for his hometown Castillejos, Zambales.

En route, he pored over the budget figures with Aytona and continued studying them as soon as he landed in Castillejos and settled down in the family ancestral home.

Besides Aytona, the only other person in the party was Lt. Leopoldo Regis, junior aide.

In the absence of the President, Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia was requested by the President to preside over the Cabinet meeting. Only routine matters were taken up, consisting mostly of trips abroad of government employees which the Cabinet approved.

The meeting was held at the family dining room from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

The Cabinet authorized the purchase of 154,394 square meters of the Piedad estate in Quezon City at P3 a square meter, provided that the low portion with an approximate area of one hectare should cost only P2.50 a square meter. This area will form part of Project 8 of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation.

The Cabinet also authorized official trips abroad, mostly of government employees and generally without expense to the government except transportation in a few cases, as follows:

(1) Lino Nazareno of the University of the Philippines to go to the United States to pursue graduate work in dairy production and animal breeding at the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College, for a period of one year;

(2) Dr. Josefina R. Ayuyao, director of the U.P. Health Service, and Miss Magdalena Valencia, chief nurse of the U.P. Health Service, to leave for the United States to study health services and make observational visits to different health centers there, for a period of four months, without expense to the state university except for their salaries;

(3) Agapito P. Alano, chief of the irrigation division; Ricardo Y. Mayuga, chief, planning and programming officer; and Alejandro B. Deleña, supervising hydraulic engineer, all of the Bureau of Public Works, as delegates to the Third Congress on Irrigation and Drainage to be held in San Francisco, California, from April 29 to May 4, 1957, under the auspices of the United States National Committee, International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage;

(4) Dominador C. Canlas of the Weather Bureau, to leave for New York University in connection with a fellowship in oceanography awarded him under the UNESCO program;

(5) Amadeo S. Timbol, to attend the UNESCO Regional Training course in marine taxonomy to be held in Nha Trang, Vietnam, from February 11 to March 9. Timbol was granted a fellowship by the UNESCO Science Operation Office for Southeast Asia;

(6) Miss Catalina D. Shea, Miss Amefera Nena Pablo, Juan Cabanos, Nicanor del Rosario, Salvador F. Bolivar, Nicomedes C. Flores, Alberto Feliciano, Faustino S. Macutay, and two other delegates to participate in the Far East Rural Youth Conference scheduled in Bangkok, Thailand, from February 11 to 22, 1957; and

(7) Florencio Asiddao, senior forester of the Bureau of Forestry, and Manuel P. Singson, soil conservation supervisor of the Bureau of Soil Conservation, to participate in the development center on watershed management

scheduled in Herizabagh, India, from February 18 to March 17, 1957, under the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay appointed Vicente Noble as member of the Council of State, Malacañang announced today.

Noble is a former governor of Batangas and one of the Nacionalista stalwarts of the province. He will take his oath of office before President Magsaysay on a date to be announced later.

February 7.—THIS morning the President requested again Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia to receive scheduled callers in Malacañang.

A delegation from Santa, Ilocos Sur, requested the early settlement of a boundary dispute between their town and several adjacent municipalities. Headed by Mayor Nicolas Bello, the delegation was composed of Vice-Mayor Jesus Bueno and Councilors Aniceto. Molina, Crispin Galinato, Candelario Bajet, Porpirio de Peralta, Macario Villanueva, Jose Tejada, Maria Bueno, and Enrique de Guzman.

Another delegation composed of fishermen from Mabini, Batanes, sought government prohibition of the use of high-powered lights by deep-sea fishermen off the coast of Balayan Bay. Headed by Ex-Mayor Rafael Amorao, the group explained that the lights were attracting all fish along the coast and depriving small fishermen of their only means of livelihood.

Mr. and Mrs. Bunny Austin and Gordon Wise of the Moral Rearmament Mission called to pay their respects following their recent arrival in Manila in the course of a tour in the Far East. They were accompanied by Sen. and Mrs. Roseller T. Lim.

The Vice-President received callers at the President's study from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Other delegations included those from Batanes headed by Rep. Jorge Abad and Gov. Marcos Malupa; from Batangas, headed by Rep. Apolinario Apacible, Mayors Gregorio Brotonel of Agoncillo and Luis Ramos of Balayan, and Vice-Mayor Tomas Panaligan of Tuy; from Cavite, headed by Gov. Delfin Montano; and from Mindoro Occidental, headed by Gov. Mariano Tajonera and ex-Rep. Jesus Abeleda.

Aside from presidential callers, the Vice-President also received his own visitors composed mostly of diplomatic representatives. Among the Vice-President's callers were Mons. Egidio Vagnozzi, papal nuncio, Ambassador Koichiro Asaki of Japan, Ambassador George Lisle Clutton of Great Britain, and Consul General Ernest Simke of Israel.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today defended his administration's economic policies from criticisms that they have failed to curb unemployment and caused prices to spiral.

He made the defense in a speech before the country's business leaders whom the Business Writers Association of the Philippines honored at the Manila Hotel Fiesta Pavilion this evening.

"In these (economic) policies," the President said, "I see private enterprise and initiative as the major motive force," for in the development of a free economy, "only private enterprise has the "flexibility and vigor to carry out the massive effort required for real growth."

President Magsaysay cautioned against "the use of loose and misleading generalities." He said it was "unrealistic" to use the expression, "solve the unemployment problem," since unemployment is a part of the total economic problem.

“The number of jobs which the Government itself can provide is extremely limited,” the President explained. “What the Government can do, is doing, and must continue to do, is foster and stimulate the increased private enterprise which will absorb our manpower resources.”

In an attempt to prove that unemployment was not as serious as certain sections of the press painted it to be, President Magsaysay said the expression “millions of unemployed” has been belied by a recent “scientific and painstaking” survey on the matter.

The survey, the President pointed out, revealed “that our unemployed and unemployables down to such age categories as ten years numbered little over one million.”

He went on: “When it is further remembered that population growth steadily augments the size of our labor force, even prevention of increased unemployment means that considerable new jobs have been created.”

Concerning the criticism that his administration has not solved the spiralling prices, President Magsaysay said that the Philippines “being still dependent for many of (her) needs on imports, she (cannot) escape the price fluctuations of the countries which supply (her).”

“It must be borne in mind,” the President said, “that we do not exist in an economic vacuum.”

While prices have been steadily rising throughout the world, the President continued, “in some instances, it can be shown that some of our commodity prices have been kept below the rate of increase in the exporting country.”

The President then went on to explain that in charting the country’s economic course, he had chosen a “cautious approach,” which draws upon the costly experience of others carefully choosing what seems best adopted to our needs.”

He said this was better than devising and trying out “new and experimental economic theories” in that it was a more “cautious approach.” (See *Historical Papers and Documents*, pp. 603–606, for the full text of the President’s speech.)

February 8.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning received Assistant Secretary of State Walter Hallstein of West Germany and Counsellor Swidbert Schnippenkotter of the Foreign Office of West Germany.

The two West German officials paid a courtesy call on the President and conveyed the best wishes of the President and the Chancellor of their country. They were accompanied by F. L. von Furstenberg, minister of West Germany to the Philippines.

Assistant Secretary of State Hallstein is on his way to Tokyo, where he will preside over a conference of West German diplomats and consular officials in Asia.

After meeting the two officials, the President received Dr. and Mrs. T. M. Graber, who were accompanied by officers and members of the Federation of Dental Practitioners in the Philippines. Dr. Graber is the director of research of the Northwestern University Cleft Palate Institute and associate professor of the department of orthodontics of the same university. Among those who accompanied Dr. Graber were Dr. Alfonso C. Salcedo, president of the FDPP, Dr. Carmelo Vergel de Dios, Dr. Felipe C. Sabater, and Dr. A. M. Danao, chairman of the Board of Dental Examiners.

Frank Gilbert, one of the officials of the International Trade Fair of New York and Seattle, which will be held sometime in May this year, was also among the callers of the President. Gilbert was accompanied by Commerce Undersecretary Perfecto Laguio and representatives of the various local private enterprises which will take part in the international trade fair.

A group of La Loma residents complained to the President that they were being ejected by the owner of the land they were occupying. The residents requested the President to intervene in their behalf. However, as there was a court order for their ejection, the President said that the Government could not do anything to stop the ejection. The Chief Executive assured the tenants that he would ask the Land Tenure Administration to study the possibility of expropriating the privately-owned land.

Other callers of the President included Rep. Tobias Fornier of Antique and Govs. Juan Frivaldo of Sorsogon and Leon Fernandez of Sulu.

IN the afternoon the President worked on the message he would send to Congress when he transmits the new budget for legislative enactment.

“I JOIN your many friends in wishing you a very happy birthday anniversary and continued success and good health in the years ahead stop kindest regards.”

Thus did President Magsaysay greet his rival in the coming presidential elections, Sen. Claro M. Recto, who turned 67 today. The big crowd of well-wishers at the Recto residence waited in vain for the President when word was passed that he would come to greet Sen. Recto personally. Instead, he sent his birthday message by citygram.

February 9.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning received officers and members of the Philippine veterans Legion who paid a courtesy call.

Headed by Col. Alfredo Bustamante, PVL national commander, the delegation informed the President that the PVL department and chapter commanders and adjutants were at present holding a two-day convention at the Boy Scouts' headquarters on Concepcion Street to formulate the agenda for the forthcoming PVL national convention.

Among the officers in the group were Juan Gacad, Ernesto Golez, Pete Uy, Tomas Afable, Mariano Nariel, Manuel Abella, and Ernesto Villanes.

Afterwards the President also received some members of the DavPhilians, another veterans organization.

Headed by Servando Miclat, the group requested the President's support in the passage of a bill benefiting veterans, now pending in Congress. Sen. Jose Zulueta accompanied the delegation to Malacañang.

Then the President received a large group of school children from Lipa City. Headed by Miss Soledad Katigbak, principal of the Bulacanin Elementary School, the group requested more pre-fabricated school houses and artesian wells.

After receiving the callers, the President repaired to his room, where he conferred with Budget Commissioner Dominador R. Aytona on the budget message.

IN the afternoon the President cited the Jaycees for implementing the President's youth leadership program designed to prepare the youth for national leadership.

The Chief Executive received this afternoon a big delegation of Jaycees headed by Luis Araneta, national Jaycees president, and Tony Meer, president of the Manila Jaycees. The Jaycees are currently holding a three-day convention in Manila, attended by 23 provincial presidents and representatives from 52 chapters throughout the Philippines. They called on the President to pay their respects on the second day of their convention.

Araneta, in brief remarks, informed the President that the Jaycees were planning to construct a “House of Youth” in Manila, which would serve as the nerve center in youth training for leadership.

The President remarked that this was a splendid project, as the country needed youthful leaders in the work of nation building. He added that this would serve as a lasting symbol of the civic work which the Jaycees were performing in the service of the country.

The President was also informed that the Jaycees would pass a resolution endorsing the passage of a bill in Congress outlawing communism.

He lauded the Jaycees for continuing the good work which they had initiated in cooperating with the government in its social amelioration program. He mentioned again "Operations Brotherhood" which the Jaycees had launched in South Vietnam and which had proved most successful in promoting closer relationship with a neighbor country and in serving humanity.

The President conferred with the Jaycees from about 4:40 p.m. to 6 p.m.

February 10.—THIS morning the President said that seniority and merit would be strictly observed in filling up positions provided for in the staffing pattern of reorganized agencies as recommended by the Government Survey and Reorganization Commission.

The President further said that he would see to it that no injustice was done to deserving employees, especially those who had rendered efficient and long service to the government, in making these new appointments.

The Chief Executive said that deserving employees should not feel jittery for fear that others would jump over their heads in these appointments. He added that no extraneous influence would be used in the filling up of these new positions.

A Malacañang spokesman said that it was this careful consideration which had caused some delay in fully implementing the reorganization plans.

President Magsaysay today spent most of his time going over the final copy of his budget message which will be sent to Congress tomorrow.

IN the evening the President motored to the National Press Club, where he was guest at the fourth annual Gridiron Dinner of the NPC.

Members of the National Press Club laughed and had fun with the great, led by President Magsaysay himself.

A series of skits entitled "Off the Record" was presented by the NPC members. The show in effect roasted President Magsaysay, Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, members of the Cabinet and Malacañang advisers.

One of the skits portrayed a characterization of the President playing Charlie McCarthy to an American, Edgar Bergen.

A satire on the much-vaunted secret pacts entered into by the President was also staged.

The show also included a number contributed by the Manila Overseas Press Club. Mike Joseph, mimicry expert, furnished an intermission number.

A highlight in the ceremonies was the award of certificates of merit to 10 prominent citizens "for valuable contribution to the cause of a free and vigilant Philippine press."

Before the dinner, the President unveiled a mosaic mural on the base of the NPC building's tower. The mural, designed by Galo Ocampo, is the first of its kind in the Philippines.

February 11.—THE President this morning accepted an invitation of the officials of the National Rice Producers Association and the Palay Planters Association to open the convention of tenants and rice producers and be the guest of honor. The convention will be held at the Manila Jockey Club in San Lazaro on February 14. Among those who invited the President were former Ambassador Manuel Gallego, Senen Gabaldon, former Agriculture Secretary Mariano Garchitorena, Don Jose Cojuangco, Buenaventura Lopez, and Doña Julia Vda. de Gonzalez.

The President accepted another invitation from the Filipino Druggists Association to be their guest of honor at the convention of the association between March 15 and 31 at the Manila Hotel. Members of the association who extended the invitation to the Chief Executive included Leon Dolor, president; Lupicinio LI. Campos, Sr., secretary; Jose C. Yao, treasurer; and Dr. Salvador Sampedro, Dr. Olimpio L. Villacorta, and Francisco Villanueva, directors.

The Chief Executive inducted the officers of the Fordham University Alumni Association, among whom were Dr. Augusto Cortez, president; Dr. Carmen Diaz-Tañedo and Luis Tirso Rivilla, vice-presidents; Miss Ma. Teresa Colayco, secretary; Carmelo Nepomuceno, assistant secretary; Dr. Paz Adriano, treasurer; and Dr. Alicia Jose, assistant treasurer.

The members of the Photographers Association of the Philippines called on the President and presented him with a plaque pledging their support in the 1957 presidential election. They also cited the President's various accomplishments for the welfare of the common masses. The members of the association were headed by Regalado Montemayor and Gutierrez de Jesus.

Other callers of the President were Rep. Leonardo Perez of Nueva Vizcaya; Lt. Col. Ramon Gelvezon, PC Criminal Investigation Service chief; Davao City Fiscal Alfredo Noel, who reported on the progress of the prosecution of the Palma murder case; Roman Lorenzo, Philippine Public School Teachers Association president; Tomas de Castro, Philippine Association of Division Superintendents president; Col. Agustin Marking, ex-Mayor Jose Rodriguez of Cebu City, Rep. Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur, Don Manuel Elizalde, former Ambassador Jose Romero, Mrs. Maria Gonzales Vda. de Padilla (mother of the late Moises Padilla), former Senator Geronima T. Pecson, and a delegation of the *Araw Na* association.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay recommended to Congress today the creation of a joint legislative-executive commission to undertake a revision of the revenue and tax structure of the country.

He made this proposal in his budget message to the Congress in which he outlined his financial operating program for the current fiscal year, with a budget proposal of P1,212,525,400 (B) based on a Five-Year Fiscal Plan extending up to 1961.

The President gave a comprehensive view of the policy framework upon which the budget was constructed in a precedent-setting budget message justifying the novel fiscal program.

Urging a "major reexamination" of the revenue structure and tax policies, the Chief Executive observed the present inefficient state of the revenue collection machinery and cases of widespread tax evasion.

The President said: "The principal fact in our present revenue situation is that income from customs receipts can be relied upon as the major and sufficiently augmenting source of government funds. Our policy of minimizing imports in favor of domestic production, while economically sound, will clearly result in progressively diminishing growth of customs receipts. More reliable tax bases must be found to replace the loss."

He expected Congress to act on this proposal to create a joint legislative-executive commission in its current session.

Expressing this hope, the President said "the recommendations of the Commission should be ready for consideration and enactment at the legislative session a year hence."

Meanwhile, he said, he was withholding his recommendations for substantive reforms in the present tax structure.

Geared to the long-range perspective of attaining a “viable economy,” the fiscal plan proposed by the President envisions a “dynamic and balanced agro-industrial society” with agriculture as the fundamental economic base.

“We must not repeat the lack of foresight which characterized the lush days of our export trade when high earnings and revenues were quickly dissipated in non-essentials without thought of future consequences or of long range national development needs. Some of our later pitfalls and troubles could have been avoided had there been formulated and adopted at that time a long range and integrated economic plan backed up by a fiscal program implementing the public sector. We must never again fail to plan with vision, boldness, and realism”

Urging a reshaping of the economic structure of the country, the President said that the objective is to foster an economy in which industrial and agricultural progress would complement and reenforce each other.

He called for a “realistic” fiscal policy in which the principal problem to be tackled is the “non-inflationary financing of social and economic development.

The President gave the following as the controlling guides in the preparation of Five-Year Fiscal Plan:

1. The government will continue to maintain a balanced budget for general operations and will not resort to deficit financing for current operations.
2. It will pursue a policy of judicious public borrowing to finance economic development without impairing monetary stability. The loans will be used exclusively for income-creating or other productive capital expenditures for projects directly contributing to industrial and agricultural production.
3. It will test every proposed expenditure of public funds against the touchstone of the national interest.
4. The tax policy will be geared to the essential financial requirements of government for general operations and development purposes.
5. The public debt will not exceed a level consistent with the country’s economic growth.
6. Tariffs will be employed as a means of offering reasonable protection to domestic producer where such measures appear economically sound and in the national interest.

Feeling the need for a top-level mechanism which would coordinate the government’s fiscal policy, the President said he was taking steps to create a fiscal policy council.

He proposed for its membership the secretary of finance, the governor of the Central Bank, the chairman of the National Economic Council, and the budget commissioner.

He said he has organized a coordinating group on development finances which will aid the top-level Council in its work of insuring an “efficient and forwardlooking financial management in an environment of monetary stability.”

Members of this coordinating group are the senior technical officers of the finance and planning agencies of the government.

Two bills pending in Congress the past two sessions were given a boost by the President.

These are the tax amnesty and the national tax census measures. The President urged approval of these two bills which were recommended by the Tax Advisory Board.

He observed that grant of a partial tax amnesty was necessary to induce taxpayers to reveal or declare their untaxed earnings or incomes. He said that under existing laws the accrued fines and penalties imposed on delinquent taxpayers are often so big so as to discourage the settlement of past tax obligations.

In battling for the tax census bill, the President said a comprehensive tax census would greatly enhance tax collections by minimizing tax evasion and revenue leakage.

He estimated that both measures when enacted into law would bring P15 million additional revenue in 1958 mounting to P25 million by 1961.

The President also recommended continuation of the performance budget as a necessary step in developing sound and responsible business management practices in the conduct of public activities.

The proposed budget he submitted was on a performance basis, pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act 992.

He said: "To revert to the previous form of line-item budgets with their concealment of program objectives and work results would lose for us much of the point and drive in our efforts to make fiscal management an effective tool for the realization of our national development aims."

On the use of reparations goods and services from Japan, the President stressed that:

1. The preponderance of goods received during the initial two or three years would be assigned to government account.
2. All government entities acquiring goods and services would be required to finance such purchases in full.
3. All proceeds from the disposition of reparations derived from both the public and private sectors would be deposited in a special development fund to be used exclusively for long-term capital investments through private and government banks.

The budget for the fiscal year 1957–1958 submitted by President Magsaysay to Congress today amounts to P1,212,525,400, including the general special, fiduciary, and bond funds.

This year's proposed budget compared to the previous year of P1,122,672,461, shows an increase of P90,819,906.

The new appropriations to be requested from Congress are broken down into: general fund, P688,066,090; special fund, P148,049,140; fiduciary fund, P4,465,460; and bond fund, P23,000,000. Last year's breakdown for the same items was: general fund, P605,080,842; special fund, P116,352,647; fiduciary fund, P17,863,775, and bond fund, P13,463,520.

According to figures from the Budget Commission, the expected income from all funds for the fiscal year 1957–58 is P1,196,995,590. The figures also reveal that expected receipts from taxes are P994,251,590, from which the expenses for current operations in the general funds amounting to P688,066,090 will be taken.

Budget Commissioner Dominador R. Aytona said that this increase was due mainly to additional appropriations for improved and more health services, partial adjustment of salaries for government employees, opening of 3,500 additional classes throughout the country, holding of the elections in November, additional subscriptions to the capital stocks of the NAMARCO and the ACCFA, maintenance of roads, highways, bridges, and irrigation projects, and increase in veterans pensions.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today made a surprise visit to the fire-razed district of Palomar and told the fire victims that he had ordered the release of P50,000 for them.

The President was accompanied to the slum area, which had been hit by fire last night by Rep. Angel Castaño of Manila's first district and Manila Vice-Mayor Jesus Marcos Rocas. The Chief Executive also told the people whose houses had been burned that Social Welfare Administrator Amparo P. Villamor had already been instructed to extend material aid to them.

Alighting from his car on a street hundreds of meters away from the devastated area, the President walked through narrow and muddy paths between makeshift houses while the crowd that gathered behind him snowballed. He stopped right in the middle of the fire-gutted area and talked to the people.

He told the fire victims, who were still busy salvaging the remains of what used to be their homes, that their representatives should discuss with Rep. Castaño and Vice-Mayor Rocas how the P50,000 aid would be distributed. The fire victims agreed that they would organize a committee to meet with the two Manila officials at Vice-Mayor Rocas' office tomorrow morning.

The President motored to Palomar after receiving his callers in Malacañang. He arrived at the fire-gutted area at 12:15 p.m. and left about 30 minutes later.

February 12.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning approved the construction of a P7 million cultural shrine in honor of Dr. Jose Rizal on Wallace Field near the Luneta which will house the National Museum, the National Library, and the National Theater.

The President gave his approval in the course of his conference with members of the Jose Rizal National Centennial Commission created recently to draw plans for the celebration of the 100th birthday of Rizal on June 19, 1961.

The President also approved during the conference the launching of a national fund drive in ceremonies to be held in Malacañang on March 15, simultaneous with similar ceremonies in provincial capitals and chartered cities under the leaderships of governors and city mayors. He signed a personal appeal to governors and city mayors urging them to assist the commission in its Rizal fund campaign.

The Chief Executive agreed with the commission that the shrine should be erected on Wallace Field in view of its proximity to the locale of Rizal's martyrdom. He disapproved previous suggestions that it be constructed in Quezon City, as it would take at least 20 years to transfer the capital there and, meanwhile, the proposed museum, library, and theater would not be so accessible to the general public.

Showing deep interest in bringing about harmony in the motif and design of the three units comprising the shrine, the President urged the commission to re-study the important problem of engaging the services of competent architects for the plans and specifications. He suggested that special attention be given to the acoustics of the proposed theater which will seat 3,500 persons.

The President offered no objection to the commission's proposal to solicit voluntary contributions from government employees as well as from school population, both public and private. It was proposed that the contribution of students and pupils be either five centavos a month or 20 centavos a year.

Other main objectives of the commission in connection with the centennial observance of Rizal's birthday were:

- (1) The translation of all Rizal's important works from Spanish into English and all major Philippine dialects for nationwide distribution; and
- (2) The enrichment of Rizaliana collection which will be completed from materials secured locally as well as from abroad.

Headed by Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., chairman, commission members present at the conference this morning were Sen. Jose P. Laurel, Sr., Director Eduardo Quisumbing of the National Museum, H. B. Reyes, Arsenio Luz, Ramon del Rosario, and Leoncio Lopez Rizal, a nephew of the martyr-hero.

AFTER the conference, at 10:30 a.m., the President motored to Fort McKinley and inspected the military installations there. He asked Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon to receive his callers.

On his way to his car, the President was intercepted by some callers, among whom were Gov. Juan Frivaldo of Sorsogon, Gov. Jose Dinglasan of Capiz, Rep. Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz, Rep. Godofredo Ramos of Aklan, and Rep. Emilio Cortez of Pampanga, who discussed matters affecting their districts. Jesus Merritt of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation also saw the President.

Gov. Dinglasan invited the President to inaugurate the new municipality of Maayon, Capiz, on February 23. He also requested the assignment of the AFP Second Engineer Combat Battalion under Maj. Sergio Isada to his province to construct an airport feeder roads.

Gov. Frivaldo requested the President to inaugurate the hydroelectric system and to break the ground for the irrigation system in Sorsogon.

The President also received Cirilo Flores, who used to be the family driver of the Magsaysays when the President was only 12 years old. Flores showed the President a chemical composition which he had discovered, claiming that it can cure eczema. The President told Assistant Executive Secretary Enrique C. Quema to refer the product to the Institute of Science and Technology for chemical analysis.

Secretary De Leon received the President's scheduled callers while the Chief Executive was away in Fort McKinley.

A delegation from the Filipino Druggists Association headed by its president, Leon Dolor, called to invite the President to be guest of honor at their third anniversary celebration to be held at the Manila Hotel sometime next month. With the group was Wiego Lirio, one of the association officers.

Gov. Jesus Almero of Masbate requested the construction of sea-walls in the town, of Placer and Balino, which, he said, were being eaten up by the sea and flooded during typhoons. With Gov. Almero were Mayor Jose Avenir of Palanas, who asked for the construction of a municipal building and feeder roads, Mayor Vicente Oliva of Milagros, who sought the construction of a high school, and Mayor Misael Cabrera of Dimasalang.

Other delegations this morning included those from Mindoro Oriental headed by Rep. Conrado Morente and Mayor Marciano Roldan of Victoria; from Iloilo, headed by Rep. Ricardo Y. Ladrado and Mayor Alfonso Espino of Dingle; from Misamis Oriental, which included Rep. Ignacio S. Cruz, Gov. Vicente Lara, and Mayors Alejandro Uy of Manticao, Felicisimo Aguilar of Medina, and Victor Resma of Tago, Surigao.

Among individual callers were Sen. Quintin Paredes; Reps. Jose R. Nuguid of Bataan, Mateo Pecson of Masbate, Tecla Ziga of Albay, and Carlos Tan of Leyte; Vice-Mayor Filemon Lat of Malvar, Batangas; and Councilor Sofio Barela of Nabua, Camarines Sur.

THE President today directed the Inter-Departmental Committee on Atomic Energy and other offices concerned to expedite action on the implementation of the bilateral agreement on nuclear research reactor between the United States and the Philippines.

The President issued this directive upon receipt of a communication from Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo, who said that the State Department and the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission were ready to implement the bilateral agreement on nuclear research reactor.

Romulo said that the United States Government would defray the total cost of the reactor, plus the salaries and services of initial technical personnel. He recommended that the Philippine Embassy in Washington be authorized to undertake a technical meeting with the State Department and the Atomic Energy Commission with Navy Commander Marcelino Calinawan, who is now in the United States handling the technical aspects of the proposed agreement.

Romulo also recommended that the Interdepartmental Committee on Atomic Energy initiate the outlay for the construction of a building and related facilities to house the research reactor.

Ambassador Romulo had previously sent to the Philippine foreign office the original of his recommendations regarding this matter.

In this connection, it is recalled that last year President Magsaysay and the Cabinet authorized the reservation of a 98-hectare lot of the University of the Philippines as site of the proposed Asian nuclear center.

February 13.—AT breakfast this morning the President told a group of labor leaders to intensify their educational drive to better acquaint the labor elements of the country with labor legislations.

The President added that present laws were designed to improve the welfare of the laborers and that all working men should know their rights to free themselves from exploitation of some unscrupulous employers.

Present at the breakfast conference were Jose Hernandez, PTUC; Henry Santos, PAFLU; Johnny Tan and Pablo Villaflores, FFW; Vicente Arniego, CUGC; Ildefonso Remolona, MFL; Inocencio Ferrer, AWA; Vicente Geli, CWU; Roberto Oca, PTWO; and Rafael Lerum. They were accompanied to Malacañang by Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevos, Raul Inocentes of the Department of Labor, and Roberto Teodoro, president of the labor reporters association.

During the conference the labor leaders complained to the President of the conflicts between the PC and the laborers in the picket lines during strikes.

The President suggested that seminars for the PC and the labor leaders should be held. He said that a labor specialist should conduct these seminars.

The Chief Executive also suggested that a conference between Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason and labor leaders should be held to promote better understanding between the authorities and the labor elements.

The breakfast lasted from 8 to 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE Secretary Fortunato de Leon this morning assured more than 1,000 employees and laborers of the various government corporations that their petition for the right to collective bargaining would be given a serious study by President Magsaysay.

The employees and laborers, who belong to the Confederation of Unions in the Government Corporations, sought the intervention of the President in their fight for their right to collective bargaining. They entered into a collective bargaining with the boards of the various government corporations but the agreements were declared illegal by the Office of Economic Coordination, the Budget Commission, and the Bureau of Civil Service because it would supersede the salary law.

Budget Commissioner Dominador R. Aytona had forwarded the case to the Department of Justice for an opinion. Secretary de Leon said that the President was "in sympathy" with the laborers. He also said the President wanted to get all the papers on the controversy so that he could study the case thoroughly.

The Executive Secretary met the employees and laborers on the Malacañang grounds on behalf of the President, who took a rest at the advice of his personal physician, Dr. Jose Corpus.

Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevosos also told the government corporations laborers and employees that the Administration would do what was just and fair. He told the demonstrators to be patient and wait for the decision of the secretary of justice.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today requested Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently foreign affairs secretary, to preside over the regular meeting. Owing to an upset stomach caused by eating shrimps the night before, the President was advised by his personal physician, Dr. Jose Corpus, to rest.

The Cabinet authorized the release of the proceeds of bonds worth P2 million to the Cebu Portland Cement Company to be used as part payment to the National Development Company for the purchase of the Malangas Coal Mines amounting to P2,714,301.83. The balance of the payment will be paid by the CEPOC within a period of 10 years without interest.

The Cabinet gave its approval after an agreement had been reached between the CEPOC and the NDC, followed by the recommendation of the OEC and the NEC and approved by the Council of State.

In the interest of promoting and advancing air travel, the Cabinet approved the trips of officials of the Civil Aeronautics Administration for abroad to undertake missions related to aviation. The Cabinet authorized the trips of the following:

(1) Eulogio Benitez, airport coordinator; Capt. Carlos Teves, chief, airmen section; Capt. Ponciano Guerzon, airline pilot; Benjamin Martinez, airways engineer; and Bonifacio Reyes, chief, air traffic control, to participate in the proving run of the aircraft Vickers Viscount of the Hongkong Airways, Limited, for the Manila-Hongkong route and return, scheduled on February 19 to 21, 1957, so as to observe the airline's adherence to the safety and traffic regulations;

(2) Eulogio Benitez; Remedios Mijares-Austria, chief, legal and economic affairs division; and Jesus Nievera, information officer to attend the inaugural flight on invitation of the Hongkong Airways, Limited, of its Manila-Hongkong route, on March 3 to 5, 1957;

(3) Capt. Carlos C. Teves; Gaudencio Mendoza, A & E inspector, and Henry T. Perez, aeronautical engineer and inspector to undertake training and acceptance (inspection and licensing of aircraft) at London, England, and or Washington, D.C., care of Capital Airlines; and

(4) Panfilo Villaruel, chief, airways division; and Filemon A. Ramirez, assistant chief communications operations section to visit the USAF air traffic control communications office in Okinawa and Tokyo and to hold conferences with key men of this organization.

The Cabinet meeting was held at the Council of State room. It started at about 10:30 a.m. As Vice-President Garcia was the host at a luncheon in honor of the League of Provincial Governors and City Mayors members, at the Hall of Flags of the Department of Foreign Affairs on Padre Faura, he adjourned the Cabinet meeting about 12:15 p.m.

IN the afternoon the President received in his bedroom the newly elected officials of the League of Provincial Governors and City Mayors.

Those who called on him to pay their respects were City Mayor Sergio Osmeña, Jr., of Cebu City, president; Gov. Isidro Rodriguez of Rizal, vice-president; Gov. Dominador Chipeco of Laguna, executive secretary; Gov. Rafael Lazatin of Pampanga, treasurer; Mayor Leron Brown of Basilan City, sergeant at-arms; and Gov. Juan Frivaldo of Sorsogon, press relations officer. Also with the group was Gov. Bernardo Torres of Leyte. The officials were accompanied to Malacañang by former Gov. Sofronio Quimson, Malacañang technical assistant.

The President congratulated the newly elected officials and, in the course of their conversation, reiterated his stand favoring the grant of more autonomy to local officials.

Gov. Torres presented the President with a resolution of the provincial committee of the Nacionalista Party of Leyte, expressing “its complete and absolute confidence in the leadership of President Magsaysay and that this body hereby irrevocably and unconditionally endorses his re-election in the forthcoming national elections.”

The resolution said that to enable the President to execute his “effective and practical policies of administration to a successful conclusion, it is imperative that President Magsaysay be given another term of office.”

The resolution was passed unanimously by the provincial committee of the Nacionalista Party of Leyte at a meeting held in the Office of the Governor at Tacloban City, last February 9.

The President expressed his gratitude to the Leyte NP provincial committee through Gov. Torres.

February 14.—THIS morning, the President administered at Malacañang the oath of office to former Gov. Vicente Noble as member of the Council of State. Present at the induction were Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., Sen. Jose P. Laurel, Sr., Reps. Numeriano Babao and Apolinario Apacible, and a large delegation of political leaders from Batangas.

In inducting Noble, the President thanked the new appointee for having consented to help the government. Noble, in return, thanked the President for having given him opportunity to serve again.

FOLLOWING the ceremony, the Chief Executive boarded his car and went to the Manila Jockey Club. He was accompanied by Mondoñedo of the ACCFA and Concepcion of the NARIC.

The President was enthusiastically cheered as he entered the convention premises. At the speaker’s platform were Senen Gabaldon, president of the Philippine Federation of Palay and Corn Planters; Govs. Conrado Estrella of Pangasinan, Arsenio Lugay of Tarlac, and Amado Aleta of Nueva Ecija; and other officials of the rice producing regions.

President Magsaysay ordered the ACCFA and the NARIC to study the implementation of the proposed rice price support as it affects tenants and small producers, following his address before the convention of palay and corn farmers at the Manila Jockey Club this noon.

In his extemporaneous address, the President, expressed regret that government finances did not as yet permit the extension of the price support policy to big rice producers. He said that the Government had to help first the small farmers who needed its assistance more.

The Chief Executive revealed that a bill was being sponsored in Congress providing for price support. Pending approval of the bill, he ordered Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo of the ACCFA and Vicente Concepcion of the NARIC to study ways of effectively implementing the proposed measure so as to benefit small rice producers.

Explaining his price support policy, the President compared small and big rice producers to patients in a hospital where the doctor had to attend to the more serious ones who needed his immediate assistance. “The walking patients will come afterwards,” he added.

The President’s brief speech was received with lusty cheers from some 10,000 conventionists gathered at the Manila Jockey Club. He was introduced by former Ambassador Manuel Gallego, president of the National Rice Producers Association of the Philippines.

The Chief Executive emphasized that he was in favor of the price support for tenants as well as for landlords, not only as a means of helping producers but also of increasing rice production and attaining self-sufficiency in this

staple commodity. He regretted, however, that the benefit could not be extended to everyone at present in view of the limited resources of the government.

Explaining the mechanics of the price support policy, the President said that it would be some kind of government subsidy, with the ACCFA and the NARIC buying the commodity from producers at a higher price and selling it to the consuming public at a lower price.

He said that the Government used to appropriate P3 million yearly to subsidize the international flights of the Philippine Air Lines. He said that this money could be put to better use if it be channelled to helping the small farmers.

The President's speech which was delivered extemporaneously in Tagalog lasted about 30 minutes. Then followed an impromptu open forum where the conventionists took the opportunity to air pressing problems in their respective localities; such as, the need of fertilizers and irrigation systems.

The Chief Executive was back at Malacañang shortly after 12 noon.

AS President Magsaysay had a speaking engagement this morning at the Philippine Jockey Club he requested Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently foreign affairs secretary to receive Malacañang callers.

The Vice-President received a large delegation from Quezon province, headed by Gov. Leon Guinto, Sr. The delegation presented a P10,000 check as their province's contribution to the Peace and Amelioration Fund campaign. The group was accompanied to Malacañang by Manuel Elizalde, chairman of the PAFC. Gov. Guinto informed the Vice-President that the funds were contributed by residents of his province.

Rep. Manuel Enverga of Quezon accompanied a 15-man delegation from his district requesting assistance for public works and other improvements of his district.

Rep. Ombra Amilbangsa accompanied a Jolo veteran, Mani Zalasan, who needed plastic surgery. They requested accommodation at the V. Luna General Hospital.

Then the Vice-President received Minister Allard Merens of the Netherlands at the music hall. They conferred briefly on routine matters.

After receiving Merens, the Vice-President received members of the Sulu Traders Association who were accompanied by Gov. Leon Fernandez. They requested assistance in the improvement of trade and commerce in Sulu.

A group of AFP officers called to pay their respects to the Vice-President in his capacity as secretary of foreign affairs. Headed by Brig. Gen. Alfredo Santos, the officers informed the Vice-President that they would sail for Bangkok, Thailand, on Monday to assume their duties in the SEATO Military Planning Headquarters. Other officers with Gen. Santos were Col. Florentino Cardenas, Col. Regino de Leon, and Col. Jose Mendoza.

The Vice-President also received about 100 people from Bohol who are at present residing in Manila. Headed by German Neri, NAMARCO board member, the delegation requested the appointment of Juan Concon as administrator of the Office of Economic Coordination. Concon is the acting administrator of that office.

The Vice-President told the delegation that he was not against the appointment of Concon. However, he suggested that the delegation make another representation with the President, who alone could act on the matter.

Other callers were town officials from Pampanga who requested funds for public works improvements in their respective towns. They were Samson Panlilio, German Galang, and Isidro Ocampo of San Luis, Sta. Rita, and Guagua, respectively.

The last caller was Cebu Board Member Francisco Remotigue. He requested assistance in the solution of corn shortage in his province.

IN the afternoon the President urged all the people in the country to rally behind the banner of the Philippine National Red Cross and support its fund drive.

The President was represented by Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia as guest of honor and speaker at the formal launching of the 1957 Annual Fund Campaign of the PNRC held at the Malacañang Social Hall. The 1957 goal of the PNRC is P1,500,000.

Mrs. Luz B. Magsaysay, who was present at the program, handed President Magsaysay's personal contribution of P1,000 to the campaign to Mrs. Luchi S. Lacson, chairman of the 1957 Manila Red Cross Fund Campaign.

In a prepared speech read by Vice-President Garcia, the President paid tribute to the accomplishments of the PNRC saying that as a civic and charitable organization, the PNRC, "has become an integral part of the Filipino way of life." The President's speech said: "So gallant are its workers that at the risk of life and limb, they face dangers in order to fulfill their noble mission of helping humanity."

The President appealed to all citizens and residents of the country as well as associations and organizations to help actively in the Red Cross fund campaign by the giving of their means, time, and effort to realize the aims and purposes of the agency. He also authorized all national, provincial, city and municipal officials, and school authorities to accept for the PNRC fund raising responsibilities. He urged all government officials and school authorities to take the initiative and active leadership in their respective communities.

The formal launching program was attended by a large crowd composed of government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, civic leaders, and prominent citizens. The program which was held from 4 to 4:30 p.m., was broadcast by all the Manila radio stations.

Health Secretary Paulino Garcia, chairman of the PNRC board of governors, delivered the opening remarks.

On the platform were the First Lady, Vice-President Garcia, Secretary Paulino Garcia, Mrs. Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., Mrs. Luchi Lacson, BIR Collector Jose Arañas, and former Manila Mayor Valeriano Fugoso.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay removed Uldarico A. Mata from office as justice of the peace of Malangas, Zamboanga del Sur, for having been found guilty of malversation of public funds.

Mata had been sentenced by the court of first instance of Zamboanga del Sur to a prison term ranging from four months and one day to four years, nine months, and ten days, to indemnify the government in the amount of P175, and to pay a fine in the same amount.

The administrative case against Justice of the Peace Mata was an off-shot of a criminal case filed against him in the court of first instance of Zamboanga del Sur in which he had been accused of malversation of public funds.

Administrative Order No. 231, removing Mata from office, was signed by the President upon the recommendation of Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason and the district judge.

It was brought out in the trial of Mata that on June 28, 1952, several twenty-year-old males were arraigned in his court in the town of Alicia (Mata had been justice of the peace in Malangas and Alicia) for violation of the National Defense Act calling for military training. Some of the 20-year olds pleaded guilty and Mata imposed upon each of them a fine of P50, plus costs of P5 which were either paid to him personally or through the chief of police and a police corporal with his authority, and for which receipts were duly issued.

The decision read: “One receipt, which is typical of the rest, reads in part; ‘as payment for the fine to be paid to the Office of the Municipal Treasurer after all cases be disposed with.’” Mata had collected a total amount of P175.

On April 1, 1953, when his successor to the office of justice of the peace of Alicia took over, Mata had caused the word “pending” in the docket and records of the criminal case to be erased and the word “dismissed” superimposed thereon.

The local municipal treasurer demanded the amount several times from Mata but the latter failed to do so.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

Magsaysay, R. (1957). Official Month in Review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53 (3), li-lxxiii.

President's Month in Review: February 15-28, 1957

OFFICIAL MONTH IN REVIEW

February 15.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning received Princeton University President Robert Francis Goheen, who paid a courtesy call. Goheen is here to address the 1957 convention of private schools association in Baguio City.

The 38-year old Princeton University president was accompanied by United States Charge d'Affaires Horace Smith and George Aureli of the U.S. Embassy. The President conversed with them for about 10 minutes.

The President also received a delegation from Cotabato headed by Gov. Udtog Matalam and ex-Senator Salipada Pendatun. The delegation, which was composed of municipal mayors and councilors, requested aid for public works projects.

Other callers of the President included Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevos; Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma; Sen. Jose Locsin; Reps. Jose Nuguid of Bataan, Carlos Tan of Leyte, Angel Castaño of Manila, and Jose Aldeguer of Iloilo; Health Undersecretary Rafael Tumbokon; Gonzalo Vasquez; and Ramon Sytangco.

IN the afternoon the President thanked the governors and city mayors for their resolution endorsing the policies of the President and pledging support to his. re-election.

Cebu City Mayor Sergio Osmeña, Jr., newly-elected chairman of the League of Provincial Governors and City Mayors, handed to the Chief Executive the resolution after the luncheon given in honor of the league members at the Malacañang social hall by the President.

Earlier, the President swore into office Mayor Osmeña as member ex officio of the Council of State. The President said that Osmeña's membership in the Council was in accordance with Executive Order No. 12 issued February 11, 1954, which provided that the chairman of the League of Provincial Governors and City Mayors would be member ex officio of the Council. The President cited the case of Sen. Decoroso Rosales, who, when he was chairman of the league, was also been member ex officio of the Council.

In his extemporaneous remarks after the luncheon, the President reiterated to the governors and city mayors that he was 100 per cent for giving more local autonomy to local officials.

He said he believed in less centralization of power and less personalized administration in the person of the President. Explaining his decision on this matter, the President pointed out that local officials knew more than the President about what was going on in their localities. For this reason, local officials were in a better position to decide on the spot what was good for the people without having to run to Malacañang every time there was need to decide simple local matters. Let the local officials decide these matters, he said.

In the course of his extemporaneous talk, the President called on Sen. Decoroso Rosales, chairman of the Senate committee on local governments, who pledged his wholehearted support to the local autonomy measure. Rep. Lamberto Macias of Oriental Negros, chairman of the House committee on local governments, said that he would give the local autonomy measure his most sympathetic consideration.

The reiteration of the President's stand on this matter was met by a warm applause by the provincial governors and city mayors. It was finally decided that the local autonomy measure should be considered both as a committee and as an administration bill.

Narciso Pimentel, Jr., and Lucas Paredes, both of radio fame, participated in the program by delivering brief remarks.

The President told the delegates that he would meet them Saturday to discuss with them their local problems before they returned to their respective provinces.

Immediately afterwards, the President met with the Malacañang reporters at the family dining room for their regular weekly press conference.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this afternoon directed Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao to order Army men to look into the losses incurred by tenants of barrio San Vicente, Magalang, Pampanga, whose palay had allegedly been burned by Huks.

The President directed Balao to help financially the affected tenants after ascertaining the amount of losses incurred by them.

A press report said that Huks had burned this morning palay which would have netted over 10,000 cavanese in an hacienda at barrio San Vicente, Magalang, near the foot of Mount Arayat.

The report added that the palay-burning was believed a retaliation to the killing of five Huks last week by Army troopers in a sugarcane field at barrio Santo Rosario, Magalang.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay indicated this afternoon he was in favor of granting an oil exploration concession to a foreign oil company, but that the financing side of the venture must be treated as a "separate matters."

He made the statement in his weekly press conference when asked to comment on an application for a one-million hectare concession of the San Jose Oil Company, Inc., reportedly an American firm, which had also proposed to sell P2 million worth of company shares in the Philippines.

In the same press conference, the President reiterated his enforcement of a price support for rice.

He said he was studying House Bill 6311, which has been filed in the lower chamber of Congress, seeking a P1 million government subsidy to back the price support plan.

During the press conference, the President also:

1. Said the coming elections would not, in any way, hamper the resumption of the bases negotiations talks with the United States. He added that the 98,000 hectares of former base lands recently turned over to the Philippines by the United States would be leased or sold soon to qualified parties;
2. Denied he had plans of sending a mission to the United States to work for the payment by the U. S. Government of Philippine money claims; ("Nobody has broached to me the idea," he said.)
3. Revealed he was considering the appointment "shortly" of a Philippine ambassador to the Vatican, mentioning former Ambassador Manuel V. Moran, Dr. Jose Delgado, Dr. Manuel Lim, and Sen. Jose C. Locsin as among the contenders for the post.

Admitting that price support "is rather complicated," the President said he would be glad to direct technical men from the National Rice and Corn Corporation and the Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Financing Administration to aid the legislators in working on the legislation.

Public attention has been drawn to the activities of the San Jose oil firm which has allegedly sought the services of two Nacionalista senators to have its contract for the concession released.

The President said he had asked Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez, whether it was true that "pressure" was being applied on him to have the contract released and Rodriguez denied the allegation.

Rodriguez had signed the contract but would not release it for fear that Filipinos who might invest in company shares would not be protected in the event of corporate manipulations.

The President observed that, according to the director of mines, the San Jose firm had complied with all legal requirements and, therefore, qualified to hold concession.

But he added that, while he was in favor of releasing the contract, the matter of the company's selling shares here should be treated separately.

He agreed with Rodriguez that there was an "intricate financing" involved, since the San Jose firm has proposed to sell shares here through a mother company, the San Jose Petroleum of Panama.

This mother firm, in turn, is owned by the Oil Investments of Panama, a company whose stocks are controlled on a 50-50 basis by two Venezuelan firms.

The President said that the plan to sell San Jose shares needed a "thorough study" by local experts. He said he would leave the matter to the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the Department of Justice.

The final policy decision, he said, would be made by the Cabinet.

It was learned that the concession applied for covers 14 parcels of petroleum lands in various parts of the country with an aggregate area of one million hectares.

Rodriguez had warned that, since the San Jose firm is associated with four other foreign companies, there was no assurance that Filipino shareholders would be given due protection for their investments.

THE President today signed Administrative Order No. 232, creating a committee to plan, coordinate, and accelerate organization of consumers cooperative associations to enable industrial workers and government employees to purchase prime commodities at reasonable prices.

Another object of the administrative order is to increase the participation of the people in the retail trade of the country.

The committee created for this purpose will be composed of the secretary of labor, the ACCFA administrator, the administrator of the Cooperatives Administration Office, the NAMARCO general manager, and the Central Cooperatives Exchange general manager. The committee will elect a chairman from among themselves.

In his order the President directed that the committee should devise ways and means of fostering the effective organization of consumers cooperatives. He said that to prevent overlapping and duplication of activities, the ACCFA should undertake the organization of consumers, cooperative stores in rural areas as part of the expanded, program of the FAGOMA.

In this connection, the Cooperatives Administration Office was directed to take charge of the organization of consumers, cooperative associations in urban centers, cities and provincial capitals, and industrial areas. The Department of Labor was directed to promote the organization of consumers, cooperative associations in industrial centers, particularly among wage earners and labor union members, with the assistance of the Cooperatives Administration Office.

In the meantime that a Cooperative Wholesale Society was not yet organized to serve the consumers cooperative associations, the President said that the NAMARCO and the CCE should give priority in the distribution of commodities handled by them to consumers, cooperative stores. This will enable industrial workers and the rank and file of government employees to benefit from reduced prices, the President added.

The administrative order provided that the committee should report periodically to the President on the progress of its activities, and submit necessary recommendations for the more effective organization, operation, and coordination of consumers' cooperative associations.

February 16.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today ordered the cancellation of all public land titles awarded to unscrupulous persons who had obtained them by misrepresentation and deprived pioneers who had cleared and worked the lands for many years, of the fruit of their toils.

The President this morning summoned to Malacañang Vicente Tordesillas, assistant director of the Bureau of Lands, and instructed him to organize a task force made up of reliable, investigators in the field to look into the cases of land-grabbing with the view to revoking the fraudulent titles.

The Chief Executive disclosed he had been hearing of instances where poor ignorant farmers would settle on public lands in Mindanao, clear and cultivate them for a number of years, and then other persons would submit applications to the Bureau of Lands which would grant them title to these

The President told Tordesillas to exercise great care in awarding patents to avoid further recurrence of those cases where ignorant farmers were being victimized. He said that competent and trusted inspectors should be assigned to screen homestead applications in the field before titles were issued.

Tordesillas was instructed to extend all possible government assistance to the pioneers deprived of their lands. He was told to exhaust all available legal remedies to bring about the revocation of all fraudulent titles and restore possession of these lands to settlers who had been the victims of fraud and misrepresentation.

The President also contacted Manuel Castañeda, administrator of the Land Tenure Administration, and instructed him by telephone to coordinate with the Bureau of Lands, so that lands to which irrevocable title had been issued, could be purchased by the Government and given back to the original settlers. He said this remedy would have to be resorted to in cases where it was the only way to correct an injustice.

The Chief Executive issued these orders in the course of the call this morning of a delegation of settlers from Mindoro Oriental. Accompanied by Gov. Francisco Infantado, the settlers informed the President that they were being ejected from the lands to which they had planted coconuts from five to ten years by persons armed with titles to the property.

The President, forthwith, summoned Tordesillas, in the absence of Director Zoilo Castrillo of the Bureau of Lands, who was then out in the field, and instructed him to take immediate action on the matter.

"It irks me because these ignorant and defenseless farmers are being made the victims of an injustice," he said.

THE President this morning had a heavy schedule of callers composed of governors and city mayors who came to say good-bye prior to their return to their respective localities after their three-day convention in Manila. The local executives took advantage of their call to bring to the President's attention some of the most pressing problems of their provinces and cities.

The President received his visitors at his study from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For about four hours, provincial and city executives with their delegations kept streaming in and out of the President's study room. They kept Ramon Camus, appointments secretary, busy in maintaining an orderly flow of visitors.

Such delegations were those headed by Govs. Salvador T. Lluch of Lanao, Vicente Lara of Misamis Oriental, Bernardo Torres of Leyte, Delfin N. Montano of Cavite, Dominador Chipeco of Laguna, Valeriano Gatuslao of Negros Occidental, Amado Aleta of Nueva Ecija, Bado Dangwa of Mountain Province, Emilio F. Naval of Bataan, Fernando Veloso of Samar, Jesus Almero of Masbate, Juan Frivaldo of Sorsogon, Pedro Singson Reyes of Ilocos Sur, Mariano Peñaflorida of Iloilo, Miguel Manguera of Marinduque, Manuel Solidum of Romblon, Felixberto

Dagani of Agusan, Leon Fernandez of Sulu, Juan Alberto of Catanduanes, Jose Espino of Nueva Vizcaya, Nicanor Seva of Albay, Romulo Garrovillo of Zamboanga del Norte, Bienvenido Ebarle of Zamboanga del Sur, Diego Ty Diling of Misamis Occidental, Manuel Barreto of Zambales, Bernardo Gapuz of La Union, Bernardino Almeda of Surigao, Marcos Malupa of Batanes, and Mariano Tajonera of Mindoro Occidental;

City Mayors Leroy S. Brown of Basilan, Rodolfo Ganzon of Iloilo, Mariano Badolles of Iligan, Macapado Battara of Marawi, Isaac Tolentino of Tagaytay, Fidel Dones of Cavite, Angel Medina of Ozamis, Justiano Borja of Cagayan de Oro, Mariano Perdices of Dumaguete, Norberto Amoranto of Quezon, and Cipriano Colago of San Pablo.

AT 12:30 p.m. President and Mrs. Magsaysay had lunch with former Senator and Mrs. James Langley, who called at Malacañang this noon to say good-bye prior to their return to the United States after a three-week vacation in this country.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay signed today Proclamation No, 387, transferring this year's celebration of "Philippine Industry and Made-in-the-Philippines Products Weeks" to the third week of March instead of the last week of February of every year.

The President signed the proclamation upon the request of the Philippine Chamber of Industries.

February 17.—THE President spent a busy Sunday. At 7:30 a.m. he boarded an amphibian plane which took him to Calauag. The plane landed in Calauag Bay and the President was met by people in boats with colorful buntings. One of the boats took the President to the town shore where a large crowd headed by Rep. Leon Guinto, Jr., Gov. Leon Guinto, Sr., and Calauag Mayor Edgardo Cabangon met him.

Upon reaching the town, the President greeted the crowd that lined the streets on both sides and then proceeded to the town church, where he heard a *Te Deum*, after which he motored to barrio Sto. Domingo about ten kilometers away from the town proper.

In his speech before the boy scouts, officials, and townspeople in Calauag, the Chief Executive reiterated his deep concern for rural development. He compared the rural people to tree roots, saying that the tree lived because of the roots, and that if the roots were not watered and cultivated, the tree would die. Therefore, he said, his administration has been devoting much attention to the needs of the rural people.

Speaking bare-headed under a torrent of rain, the President wished success to the delegates to the jamboree. He left the jamboree after releasing some doves.

Gov. Guinto, Sr., who introduced the Chief Executive, referred to President Magsaysay as "our President now and for the next four more years." The governor's introduction received a long applause from the audience.

Later, in a conference with Gov. Guinto, Sr., and Rep. Guinto, Jr., the President assured the two Quezon officials that he would release money for the waterworks system of Gumaca and Atimonan. The Quezon officials informed the President that the cost of the construction of the waterworks system was estimated at P600,000.

The President was flanked on the platform by Dr. Romeo Atienza, Gov. Guinto, Sr., Rep. Guinto, Jr., Mayor Cabangon, Fernando Vinzons, and Jose Panlilio, national scout director of the BSP. In his trip to Calauag, the Chief Executive was accompanied by Augusto and Lorenzo Sevilla and Eduardo Morato.

THE President was brought back to the Nichols Air Base by the amphibian plane at exactly 12 noon. After having lunch at the base, the President boarded the presidential plane, *Pinatubo*, and flew to Baguio City, accompanied by Gov. Marcelo Adduru of Cagayan and Gov. Bernardo Gapuz of La Union.

The Chief Executive took off at 12:45 p.m. today at Nichols Air Base aboard the presidential plane *Pinatubo* for Baguio after arriving from Calauag Quezon, where he had flown earlier aboard the *Albatross*, a United States Navy amphibian plane, to attend the 2nd Southern Luzon Boy Scouts Regional Jamboree in barrio Sto. Domingo.

ARRIVING at the Baguio airport at about 1:45 p.m., the President was met by another big crowd headed by Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Jr., Rep. Ramon Mitra of Mountain Province, Govs. Bado Dangwa of Mountain Province and Conrado Estrella of Pangasinan, Baguio City Mayor Alfonso Tabora, and officials of the PRISAA.

From the airport, the President motored to Burnham Park, where the athletic meet was being held. On the platform, the President was flanked by Gov. Dangwa, Gov. Estrella, Msgr. William Brasseur, vicar apostolate of Mountain Province, Rep. Mitra, Education Secretary Hernandez, Director of Private Schools Daniel Salcedo, and PAAF President Antonio de las Alas.

Speaking after he was introduced by Private Schools Director Salcedo, the President said that the very nature of the problem of nation-building placed a severe limitation upon what the government could appropriate for public education. "With this fact in mind, the great national service, being rendered by private education enterprise becomes apparent," the Chief Executive said.

President Magsaysay paid tribute to the private schools for their contribution to the country's progress, adding that education was essential to social progress and economic development. The President was the guest at the opening of the 4th Private Schools Athletic Association Meet in Baguio City.

In his brief remarks declaring the PRISAA meet open, the President said that the role of education was basic and crucial in the growth of the nation. He however, regretted that the great contribution of the private schools was "sometimes overshadowed in the public mind by the occasional and exceptional case of venality—low standard of education."

Acting on the complaint of the officials of the PRISAA that the meet was taxed by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the President said that he was in favor of amending the law so that the BIR tax would not be levied on private athletic meets. He was greeted with applause.

He pointed out that there were about 2,000 private schools in the country with three-fourths million school population under 14,000 teachers and a total investment of P350,000,000. He said that the sport event itself was a major contribution. "In moulding the national character of the future, there is no better testing and training ground than competitive sports. It is on the playing field that life-long habits of team-work, fair play, and sportsmanship take root," the President said.

Others who spoke at the opening of the PRISAA meet were Mayor Tabora and Fernando Bautista, 1957 PRISAA chairman. The President returned to Manila by plane arriving about 5:15 p.m.

February 18.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay today granted a 30-day reprieve to Victor de Vega to enable him to study the petition for commutation to life imprisonment of the death sentence imposed on the prisoner by the Batangas court of first instance which had tried him for murder.

The President granted the reprieve in the course of his conference with Judge Salvador Esguerra, Malacañang legal adviser, this morning. He said that it was also necessary to give the Supreme Court time to set on a motion for new trial filed with the high tribunal by Vega's lawyer.

The Chief Executive had previously granted De Vega two 15-day reprieves. This third reprieve was granted today on the expiration of the second one which was given on February 4.

THE President received callers at his study from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A delegation of squatters from Kamias Road, Quezon City, presented a petition seeking the sale to them of home lots belonging to the People's Home-site and Housing Corporation which they had been occupying for almost 10 years. Headed by Aniceto Estrada, the delegation which represented some 200 families informed the President that they were now being ejected by the PHHC which needed the lots for home sites.

A delegation from New Piñan, Zamboanga del Norte, representing about 100 homesteaders requested the early approval of their homestead and sales patent applications which, according to them, had been pending with the Bureau of Lands since 1948. The group was accompanied by Gov. Romulo Garrovillo.

Two delegations sought the expropriation of certain estates in their localities and their distribution to present tenants. One group was from Hagonoy, Bulacan, headed by Segundo Gonzales, president of the Bulacan Federation of Free Farmers, and the other was from Lian, Batangas, accompanied by former Rep. Miguel Tolentino.

Officers of the Philippine Contractors Association called to invite the President to be guest of honor at their annual convention on March 9. This group was headed by H. R. Lopez, PCA president.

Justino Yaptangco, president and general manager of the Mechanical Center of Manila, showed the President samples of an electric motor water pump-produced in his factory. The President was impressed by the quality of the products, the first ever to be manufactured in the Philippines.

Yaptangco said that his plant, capitalized at P300,000 utilize 80 per cent local materials. It produces electrical machinery and materials, and employs about 100 technicians and laborers. The President congratulated Yaptangco for his enterprise.

Theodore C. Briggs, chairman of the board of directors of the Lawyers' Cooperative Publishing Company of Rochester, New York, called to pay his respects. Accompanied by Donald Muni and Jaime V. Roxas, manager and assistant manager, respectively, of the publishing firm's Manila branch, Briggs presented the President with an annotated compilation of Philippine laws consisting of nine volumes.

Another delegation from the Philippine Movement for Good Government headed by its national chairman, Ambrosio Lipana, urged the President to run for re-election.

Other delegations this morning included those from Zamboanga del Sur headed by-Sen. Roseller T. Lim and Gov. Bienvenido Ebarle; from Cavite, headed by Gov. Delfin N. Montano and Mayor Antonio Guhit of Rosario; from Candaba, Pampanga, led by Mayor Godofredo Gatus; from the Mafran Food Products Company, headed by its president, Olimpio Cabellon; from the Charity Women's Club of Sta. Ana, Manila, headed by Mrs. Elena Ponseca; and from the Civil Aeronautics Administration, headed by acting Officer in Charge Pacifico Agcaoili.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay and Director Harry Brenn of the United States Operations Mission to the Philippines this afternoon conferred on the progress of American aid to the Philippines.

The President was informed by Brenn that the procurement program for equipment and other commitments for help, such as agricultural machinery for the Philippines for fiscal year 1957, was moving along very well. Brenn said that shipments to the Philippines had already started.

The President was also informed that the U. S. budget had passed upon requests for appropriations for aid to the Philippines for the fiscal year 1958. Brenn added that everything looked fine in implementing the aid program for the Philippines.

The President conferred with Brenn prior to the latter's leaving for the U.S. Air Force Hospital in Tokyo, where he will undergo treatment. The President wished him good luck.

THE President this afternoon ordered the Social Welfare Administration and the Bureau of Hospitals to extend immediate aid to the triplets born of a needy family in Paniqui, Tarlac.

The President ordered Mrs. Amparo Villamor, social welfare administrator, to extend financial aid to the indigent family which already had ten children.

On instruction of the President, Director Tranquilino Elicano of the Bureau of Hospitals directed the chief of the Tarlac Provincial Hospital to proceed to Paniqui and look for the triplets consisting of two girls and one boy. Elicano told the provincial doctor to hospitalize the babies and to take care of any emergency medical assistance that might be required by the newly-born.

The triplets had been born to Mrs. Victorina de Guzman-Basco, wife of Santiago Basco. After reading news reports that the couple planned to seek his help, the President immediately took steps to help the poor couple.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay today congratulated Domingo C. Abadilla of the *Manila Times*, newly elected president of the National Press Club, and all the other newly elected officers.

The President said he was sure that Abadilla “will be able to bring about greater benefits to your fellow newspapermen.”

February 19.—THIS noon President Magsaysay assured the nation’s workers that there would be no rapid mechanization of industries that would throw out of work thousands of wage earners.

Addressing some 3,500 workers of the Federation Obrera de la Industria Tabaquera de Filipinas (FOITAF) gathered for their 11th national convention at the Manila Jockey Club this noon, the President said that the Government would take all necessary precautions to prevent the indiscriminate importation of machinery that would displace factory workers.

He said he had issued a directive to the Central Bank not to entertain applications for dollar allocations for such machinery unless there is prior approval by the Cabinet and accompanied with a certification by the secretary of labor that the importation would not prejudice the interest of workers.

Reiterating his rice support policy, the President said he had to limit its benefits only to tenants and small producers because to include the big landlords would entail enormous amounts of expenditure which the Government could not subsidize. As a result, he said, the price of the staple commodity would rise and hurt the consuming public, especially the laborers.

The Chief Executive also revealed that the Government had taken steps to cut down gradually on the importation of cigarettes to encourage local cigarette industries. He said that this tightening of cigarette imports was not only being made through the Central Bank but also through the arrest of smugglers said to be rampant in Mindanao and Sulu.

The President was introduced by Rep. Angel Castaño of Manila as a man who is always ready to protect the interest of workers. He spoke extemporaneously in Tagalog for about 30 minutes. With him on the speaker’s platform were Pedro C. Castro, FOITAF president; Alipio Silverio, vice-president; Severino Tabalno, secretary; Pedro Uson, treasurer; and other officers of the federation.

Accompanied by Reps. Crisologo and Castaño, the President left Malacañang for the Manila Jockey Club shortly after 11 a.m. He was back at Malacañang about 1 p.m.

The Chief Executive was scheduled to be at the convention at 10:30 a.m. However, owing to numerous provincial delegations which clamored to see him, he was delayed about 45 minutes in Malacañang.

Such delegations were those from Davao headed by Gov. Alejandro Almendras and Mayors Simplicio Obenza of Samal, Nonito Llanos of Digos, Ramon de los Sientes of Bansalan; Oswaldo Barol of Lupon, and Dominador Bindigo of Sta. Cruz; from Quezon, headed by Rep. Manuel Enverga, Mayor Felix Bona, and ex-Mayor Generoso Nadres of Candelaria; from La Union, headed by Sen. Alejo Mabanag, Rep. Manuel Cases, and Gov. Bernardo Gapuz; from Samar, led by Sen. Decoroso Rosales, Gov. Fernando Veloso, Rep. Eladio Balite, and Mayor Leon Acuba of Sulat; and from Isabela, headed by Gov. Felix Caro, Rep. Delfin Albano, Mayors Isabelo Salvador of Gamu, Francisco Villanueva of Reina, Mercedes, and Ricardo Paguirigan of Ilagan, and heads of barrio councils.

Among individual callers were Reps. Tobias Fornier of Antique, Floro Crisologo and Ricardo Gacula of Ilocos Sur, Carmen Dinglasan-Consing of Capiz, Serafin Salvador of Rizal, Ignacio Cruz of Misamis Oriental, Fernando Pajarillo of Camarines Norte, Vicente L. Peralta and Salvador Encinas of Sorsogon, Esteban Bernido of Bohol, Justino Benito of Pangasinan; Rep. Gaudencio Abordo and Gov. Alfredo Abueg of Palawan; Rep. Wenceslao Lagumbay and Gov. Dominador Chipeco of Laguna; and Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez.

February 20.—THE President received a few callers before he presided over the Cabinet meeting. Among the callers were officials of San Ildefonso, Ilocos Sur, who pledged their support to the President and urged him to run for re-election. The town officials, who were accompanied by Rep. Floro Crisologo, were Mayor Guillermo Anunsacion, Vice-Mayor Norberto Somera, and some councilors.

Other callers of the President included Rep. Manuel Zosa and Mayors Lucio Ortiz of Ronda and Jose Macoy of Dumanjug, Cebu; Rep. Godofredo Ramos of Aklan; Gov. Antonio Raquiza of Ilocos Norte; and retired Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, NAWASA board chairman, and NAWASA General Manager Susano Negado.

Earlier, the President had breakfast with Mr. and Mrs. David Cohn and Modesto Farolan. Cohn is a noted American political writer, who is now making a tour of the Far East, gathering materials for his series of articles in United States newspapers.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning was informed by officials of the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority about a new five-year artesian wells and waterworks program.

The President was informed of the huge artesian wells and waterworks program by NAWASA Board Chairman Vargas and NAWASA General Manager Negado. The two top officials of the NAWASA told the President that they would discuss with the Government Service Insurance System officials the financing of the program.

The Chief Executive inquired into the materials being used for the artesian wells and confronted Negado with a copy of a newspaper carrying the picture of an alleged non-functioning artesian well in a barrio of Tarlac, Tarlac. Negado explained that he had ordered an investigation of complaints that some artesian wells were not functioning. The NAWASA Manager said investigation disclosed that either there were defects in the mechanism of the artesian wells or, in some cases, the people did not know how to use the artesian wells properly.

Negado was told by the President that a regular check-up should be done in order to remedy mechanical defects of the artesian wells. The Chief Executive also said that only good valves should be used in the construction of artesian wells.

The two NAWASA officials said that the new artesian wells and waterworks program would be started in the towns of Digos and Bansalan, Davao, and eventually extended to all parts of the country. They also told the President that their office would conduct a nation-wide information campaign on the proper use of artesian wells. Negado said that since most of the artesian wells were dug deeply, much pumping was needed before the well could yield water.

Negado reported to the President that compared to the 1,299 artesian wells constructed before January 1, 1954, excluding pre-war constructions, 6,552 had been constructed by the present Administration from January 1, 1954, to December 31, 1956.

THE President and the Cabinet at their meeting this day found the bid of Ernesto Escaler, et al, as the best bid on the CEPOC Bacnotan Cement Plant submitted under the terms of the invitation to bid. The Cabinet instructed the Office of Economic Coordination to proceed in giving the award.

The Escaler bid for the plant was P17,001,957.95. Payment will be P4,250,489.49 in cash and the balance of P12,751,468.46 to be paid within a period of 20 years at 6 per cent interest.

The bid for the purchase of the Bacnotan Cement Plant was opened on January 22, 1957.

Upon representation of ACCFA Administrator Osmundo Mondoñedo, the Cabinet approved additional financing of the ACCFA to the extent of P30 million for the following purposes:

(1) P20 million for commodity loan operations for rice and merchandising loan operations for ramie, sugar, and other commodities needed by the farmers; and

(2) P10 million for the construction of additional warehouses, refrigeration plants, canning plants, and other facilities that the cooperatives need in the marketing of their products. A portion of this fund will be used for loans to farmers so that they can acquire needed tools of production, particularly work animals. A portion will also be used for production loans to farmers, particularly for corn production, which there is at present an acute shortage.

Mondoñedo said that the commodity loans would be backed up by the palay in the warehouses, which upon sale or consumption would mean the redemption of the notes. He added that the loans would be released as palay was brought in to the FACOMA warehouses.

Mondoñedo reported to the Cabinet the accelerated deposit of palay in FACOMA warehouses. He said that there was already two million cavans of palay worth approximately P18 million deposited in FACOMA warehouses all over the Philippines and that an estimated three million more cavans worth P27 million were expected to be deposited by the end of the harvest.

Mondoñedo said that the alien palay traders had been totally eliminated in Bulacan and that their participation in the trade had been reduced to barely 30 per cent in Tarlac and Nueva Ecija, and 50 per cent in Pampanga and Pangasinan.

With this added release of funds to the ACCFA and with the NARIC's full cooperation. Mondoñedo continued, it was safe to predict that the alien rice traders would soon be ousted from Central Luzon.

During the Cabinet meeting Mondoñedo distributed samples of *bagoong* processed and canned by the Coron FACOMA under the trade mark *Corona* to be sold to the public at no more than 50 centavos a can for the first class and 20 centavos a can for the popular class.

Mondoñedo explained that the increased production of the farmer through ACCFA's financing aid brought about the problems of processing the farmer's surplus products. He said that whereas *dilisfish* in its raw form was at present surplus, it could be salted, aged, canned, and distributed either *aspatis* or *bagoong*. He added that likewise, during the height of the harvest, tomatoes were allowed to rot for lack of a market; whereas, they could be blanched, canned, or transformed into pource and sold as canned or bottled food commodities.

He emphasized to the Cabinet that this program of processing agricultural products would not only increase the income of the farmers but would also reduce dollar expenditures by reason of reduced importation, and that it would absorb a large number of the unemployed.

The Cabinet authorized the issuance and sale of bonds worth P1,700,000 (fourth release, making a total of P4 million) representing additional release for the financial requirements of the National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration, out of the P8 million appropriated in Republic Act No. 1600.

Among the conditions of the release are:

- (1) That 85 per cent of the bond issue shall be spent exclusively for farm equipment, hand tools, food rations, etc., other than overhead, and that the overhead expenses shall not at any time exceed 15 per cent of the amount of the bond issue authorized; and
- (2) That so much of the proceeds of this bond issue as may be necessary shall be spent to meet requirements of the present number of settlers in the existing settlement projects and that whatever balance there may be, shall be used for programming new activities in addition to the P4 million still unreleased from the P18 million appropriation authorized for NARRA.

The Cabinet upon recommendation of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation board of directors, approved the purchase of an additional lot from the Piedad Estate in Quezon City with a total area of 118,295 square meters. The PHHC said that it needed this area for the expansion program being followed for its housing projects to accommodate more families in need of houses.

The Cabinet also authorized:

- (1) The Philippine Postal Administration to be represented in the 14th Universal Postal Congress scheduled in Ottawa, Canada, for about six weeks beginning August 14, 1957. Posts Director Felipe Cuaderno was designated as the official delegate to this convention, duly empowered to act for the Philippine Government.
- (2) Telecommunications Director J. S. Alfonso to go on a trip to Europe and Japan to find out which telephone equipment to get among the three lowest bidders of telephone equipment for the government telephone system, as well as the telephone equipment that may be secured from Japan out of the reparations. He will report his findings to the Cabinet upon his return. Meanwhile, the purchase of telephone equipment was ordered held in abeyance.
- (3) Philippine participation in the 9th session of the Committee on Industry, and Trade and the 13th session of the (ECAFE) Commission to be held in Bangkok from March 7 to 15 and March 18 to 28, respectively. The following were designated as Philippine delegates: Commerce Undersecretary Perfecto E. Laguip, chief delegate; Miguel G. Luna, chief of the research and publications division of the Department of Commerce and Industry, as alternate and secretary; and Consul Anastacio B. Bartolome of the Department of Foreign Affairs, as alternate.
- (4) Acceptance by the following of scholarships in financing institutions awarded to them by the Australian Government under the Colombo Plan: Antonio de la Rosa of the Central Bank, from June to December, 1957; Palermo Soriano of the RFC from June to December, 1957; Francisco Florendo and Bernardo A. Torres, Jr., both of the RFC, from January to June, 1958.
- (5) Justino B. Seguera of the Bureau of Forestry to leave for Australia in connection with his training grant in the field of wood preservation under the Colombo Plan.
- (6) Acceptance of the scholarship in chemical engineering offered by the Australian Government under the Colombo Plan to Miss Esperanza Macaranas, instructor in the College of Agriculture, U. P.

Before the start of the Cabinet meeting, President Magsaysay approved the appointment of Prof. Vicente Lontok as director of the Jose Rizal National Centennial Commission created by Republic Act 1427.

Arrangements were made so that Prof. Lontok will continue to act as secretary to the Cabinet in addition to his duties as director of the Rizal Centennial Commission.

The President presided over the Cabinet meeting from about 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. As he had other engagements, he requested Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently foreign affairs secretary, to continue presiding over the meeting which lasted until about 1:30 p.m.

The Cabinet meeting was held at the family dining room.

IN the afternoon the President said that he would discuss a plan with the Cabinet whereby the exportation of Philippine shells would be allowed only after the needs of local pearl button manufacturers had been sufficiently supplied.

The President announced the plan to about 1,500 laborers and manufacturers of the pearl button industry who marched to Malacañang protesting that a committee appointed by the President had allegedly recommended the lifting of the ban on the exportation of raw shells.

The Chief Executive told the large delegation that he had not seen the report of the committee yet. He suggested that the manufacturers should get together with the shell exporters in order to thresh out their problem. "We should find a middle ground by which the shell exporters can be allowed to export only after they have sufficiently supplied the needs of local pearl button manufacturers," the President told the manufacturers who readily agreed with the President.

The laborers were headed by Serafin Acuestas and the manufacturers included H. Swiryn, vice-president and manager of the Shell-Craft and Button Corporation; Donato Pañgilinan, vice-president and manager of the Manila Pearl Button Corporation; Alfredo Salta, president and manager of the Pacific Pearl Button Craft; M. G. Virata, president and manager of the M. G. Virata Button Factory; Jose Olivares, manager of the Ocean Pearl Button Corporation; J. C. Gutierrez, manager of the Gutierrez Button Works; and Luis Concepcion, legal counsel of the Philippine Pearl Button Manufacturers Association and spokesman of the delegation.

The Philippine Pearl Button Manufacturers Association in an earlier meeting decided to close their factories for lack of sufficient raw materials. The owners of the factories which decided to close shop, told the President that they lacked sufficient raw materials to keep the factories running. The placard-bearing laborers and manufacturers of pearl buttons applauded the President when he told them of his plan.

The President left the regular Cabinet meeting and met the pearl button manufacturers and laborers about 1 p.m. at the social hall of Malacañang. After meeting the laborers, the President had lunch with the members of the Fordham University Alumni Association.

February 21.—THE President followed a heavy schedule of callers this morning. He received his visitors at his study room from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

A delegation from Marinduque composed of mayors and barrio lieutenants presented two separate resolutions recently passed by the province's leagues of mayors and barrio lieutenants, respectively, unanimously endorsing the President's reelection "so that he could finish the work he has begun for the benefit and welfare of the nation."

Accompanied by Rep. Panfilo Manguera and Gov. Miguel Manguera of Marinduque, the delegation included Mayors Constaucio Nuñez of Mogpog, Antonio Zoleta of Gasan, Jose Madrigal of Boac, Lorenzo Saet of Torrijos, Lorenzo Belarmino of Sta. Cruz, and Vitaliano Salvacion of Buenavista.

A delegation from Tuba, Mt. Province, headed by Mayor Ben Palispis sought the early re-settlement of natives which had been displaced from their homes owing to the expansion of the Philippine Military Academy site. The President ordered Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez to release the public land previously earmarked for some 20 displaced native families.

With this delegation was Rep. Luis Hora of Mt. Province, who called to thank the President for having released P50,000 for the construction of a national hospital in Kiangnan, sub-province of Ifugao, and for having included in the budget P152,620 for the operation of the hospital in the ensuing fiscal year.

“This is the first time that a President of the Philippines really took interest in the welfare of people in remote places,” Rep. Hora said. “At first, the natives could not believe that a hospital was being built for their sub-province of Ifugao,” he added.

About 10 a.m., the President received Jose D. Aspiras of the *Evening News* and Domingo Abadilla of the *Manila Times*, outgoing and incoming president, respectively, of the National Press Club, who called to pay their respects. The Chief Executive accepted their invitation to be guest of honor at the induction of newly-elected NPC officers to be held at the NPC building on March 1.

Callers this morning were made up mainly of provincial delegations which requested financial assistance for various pet projects in their respective localities.

Such delegations were those from Iloilo which included Gov. Mariano Peñaflorida, Rep. Jose Aldeguer, and Mayors Alfonso Espino of Dingle and Tomas Tajonera of Tubongan; from Bataan, headed by Rep. Jose Nuguid and Mayors Joaquin Banzon of Pilar, Guillermo Arenas of Hermosa, Alberto Cristobal of Orion, and Domingo Perona of Limay; from Pampanga, headed by Rep. Diosdado Macapagal and Mayors Isidro Ocampo of Guagua and Adriano Puno of Bacolor; from Surigao, which included Rep. Reynaldo Honrado and Mayors Victor Risma of Tago and Adela Seraty of Tandag; from Cotabato, headed by Rep. Luminog Mañgelen, Board Member L. Jalandoni, and 12 mayors; from Laguna, headed by Gov. Dominador Chipeco, Rep. Wenceslao Lagumbay, and eight mayors; from Zamboanga del Norte, headed by Gov. Romulo Garrovillo and Mayor Pastor Bajamunde of Dipolog; from Batan, Aldan, led by Mayor Mariano Pador and Floripes Venturanza; from San Agustin, Isabela, headed by Mayor Marcelo Padilla; from Hagonoy and Malolos, Bulacan, accompanied by Rep. Erasmo Cruz; and from Lucban, Quezon, headed by Mayor Hobart Dator.

Among individual callers were Sen. Quintin Paredes; Reps. Constancio Castañeda of Tarlac, Ombra Amilbangsa of Sulu, Francisco Ortega of La Union, and Ramon Mitra of Mt. Province; and Gov. Rafael Lazatin of Pampanga.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this noon instructed Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez to be on the lookout for capable men among the ranks of provincial and city treasurers and assessors to fill key positions in the Department of Finance or in any of the government’s financial institutions.

The President pointed out that vacancies in central offices were often filled up with outsiders. If men who had proved their worth in the field were picked up to fill these positions, the government would not only benefit from their experience but would also prevent demoralization and stagnation in the ranks, he said.

“This policy will provide an incentive and encouragement to these field men,” the President continued. “It will give them something to work for and look forward to.”

The President said that government, corporations and fiscal institutions were often in need of honest and efficient men. He told Secretary Hernandez to keep tract of the local officials under his department, study their potentialities, and recommend them for higher positions of responsibility in the government.

The Chief Executive gave these instructions during the call this noon of delegates to the six-day national convention of the Provincial and City Treasurers and Assessors Association currently being held at the U.P.’s Little Theater in Diliman, Quezon City.

Conrado Hernandez, treasurer of Quezon City and president of the association, said that the convention was being held to study ways and means of solving their common problems; such as, the stepping up of tax collections and improving the finances of local governments.

Others in the delegation were Finance Undersecretary Jose Trinidad; Jose Perez, provincial assessor of Rizal, association vice-president; Pio Advincula, provincial treasurer of Bulacan, secretary; and Pedro Coronel, provincial treasurer of Rizal, treasurer of the association.

ALL the twelve representatives in the House and two provincial governors who were former Democratic Party members but now integrated into the Nacionalista Party, this afternoon presented a resolution urging President Magsaysay and Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia to run for re-election and pledging their full support to their administration.

The resolution, which had been unanimously adopted at a luncheon meeting at the Filipinas Hotel today, was presented to the President and the Vice-President by Rep. Jose M. Aldeguer of Iloilo, spokesman of the group, at a merienda conference held in Malacañang.

The resolution urged President Magsaysay and Vice-President Garcia to run for re-election and pledged “full-hearted support to their administration and re-election.”

The President thanked the former Democrats for their pledge of support which, he said, was made more manifest and stronger by the presentation of the resolution. He added that the resolution served to erase any shadow of doubt as to their real stand.

Vice-President Garcia also expressed his thanks to the signers of the resolution for their sincerity in offering their spontaneous support to the President and to himself.

Those who signed the resolution were Reps. Ramon P. Mitra of Mountain Province, Jose J. Roy of Tarlac, Manuel A. Zosa and Ramon M. Durano of Cebu, Jose M. Aldeguer, Pedro G. Trono, and Ricardo Y. Ladrado of Iloilo, Jose Puey and Carlos Hilado of Negros Occidental, Lucas Peredes of Abra, and Serafin Salvador of Rizal; and Govs. Mariano Peñaflorida of Iloilo and Romulo E. Garrovillo of Zamboanga del Norte.

Also present at the presentation of the resolution were Reps. Bartolome Cabangbang, Esteban Bernido, and Natalio Castillo of Bohol, Legislative Secretary Jose Nable, and Acting Press Secretary Guillermo V. Sison.

February 22.—IN the morning, the President received a group of home-owners of Santol, Quezon City, who complained that they were given until Monday, February 25, to evacuate their lots or face ejection. They claimed that they held titles to the 45-hectare land they were occupying but they lost in court. The court had ruled that the land belonged to a private real estate business company and had issued ejection orders against the occupants.

The home-owners, men and women who cried before the President, said that they would fight for their case. They claimed that they had been residing in the questioned area for the past many years and had legal titles to the land.

The President assured the home-owners that they would be given justice, and referred the case to Land Tenure Administrator Manuel Castañeda. He ordered Castañeda to look into the possibility of expropriating the land and subdividing it among the occupants.

Among the President’s callers were Sen. Decoroso Resales; Reps. Eladio Balite of Samar, Lamberto Macias of Negros Oriental, and Ramon Mitra of Mt. Province; Gov. Vicente de Lara of Misamis Oriental; Central Bank Deputy Governor Andres Castillo; Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma; ex-Sen. Justiniano Montano; former Secretary Sotero Baluyot; and Lito Mendoza, a four-year old boy.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this afternoon told leaders from Mindanao, Palawan, and Sulu that more government aid should be channeled to those areas.

In a conference with senators, representatives, and governors from Mindanao, Palawan, and Sulu, the President agreed that:

- (1) A branch of the Central Bank No-Dollar Import Office should be established in Mindanao;
- (2) Branches of the Court of Industrial Relations should be established in strategic places in Mindanao;

(3) A cadastral survey should be conducted in Tawi-Tawi;

(4) The grant of aid for the enlargement and strengthening of all provincial jails in Mindanao and Palawan should be included in the agenda of the next Council of State meeting; and

(5) Mindanao should be provided with more roads.

The leaders from the South also requested that a Cabinet member from Mindanao be appointed. They also batted for a greater representation of their region in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The President assured the leaders that he would approve the bill filed in Congress appropriating P5 million for the damages wrought by floods and typhoons all over the country, especially in Mindanao and the Visayan provinces.

Sen. Roseller T. Lim told the President that Mindanao and Palawan would vote for the re-election of the Chief Executive. Rep. William Chongbian of Misamis Occidental, who was also present, said that all the Liberals in his province would vote for the President.

Sen. Lim informed the President that the leaders of Mindanao and Palawan designated Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez as their spokesman concerning problems of the region. It was also Sen. Lim who said that Mindanao needed more roads. He said: "Mr. President, Mindanao and Palawan have received more aid from your administration than from previous ones, but we need more feeder roads."

The President told the group to submit their list of feeder roads in accordance with their priority to Rep. Cesar Fortich of Bukidnon, chairman of the House Committee on Public Works. The President said that he would discuss the matter first with Rep. Fortich and then take it up with the Council of State, which he would soon convene.

Another matter taken up during the merienda conference was the introduction of cottage industries in Mindanao and Palawan. The President agreed on the idea and said that the Government would get from the Japanese reparations machinery for the cottage industries. Japanese reparations machinery for the fishing, rattan, and lumber industries of Palawan were also assured by the President. The Chief Executive was also informed about the need for more feeder roads in Palawan by Gov. Alfredo Abueg and Rep. Gaudencio Abordo.

The President also expressed agreement over the establishment of a canning factory in Tawi-Tawi, Sulu. Gov. Abueg informed the President about the success of resettlement in Palawan.

After consultation by telephone with Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno, the President clarified to the officials that the P125 fee which formerly was being charged for the maintenance of artesian wells, was abolished.

Among those Who attended the conference were Sens. Emmanuel Pelaez, Domocao Alonto, and Roseller Lim; Reps. Guillermo Sanchez of Agusan, Cesar Fortich of Bukidnon, Luminog Mangelen of Cotabato, Ismael Veloso of Davao, William Chongbian of Misamis Occidental, Ignacio Cruz of Misamis Oriental, Reynaldo Honrado of Surigao, Alberto Ubay of Zamboanga del Norte, Gaudencio Abordo of Palawan, and Ombra Amilbangsa of Sulu; Govs. Felixberto Dagani of Agusan, Marcos Reciña of Bukidnon, Udtog Matalam of Cotabato, Diego Ty Deling of Misamis Occidental, Vicente de Lara of Misamis Oriental, Bernardo Almeda of Surigao, Romulo Garrolillo of Zamboanga del Norte, Bienvenido Ebarle of Zamboanga del Sur, Alfredo Abueg of Palawan, Salvador Lluch of Lanao, and Leon Fernandez of Sulu; City Mayors Leroy Brown of Basilan, Zacarias Pizarro of Butuan, Cosain Naga of Marawi, Mariano Badolles of Iligan, Angel Medina of Ozamis, and Cesar Climaco of Zamboanga; and provincial board members and municipal officials.

THE President called off his weekly press conference late this afternoon and invited the newsmen instead to, go with him to the North Harbor slums in Tondo gutted by fire before dawn today.

Upon arrival at the place shortly after dark, a big crowd swarmed about him, reminiscent of the provincial folk who meet him in his frequent out-of-town trips. The ogling crowd is a typical demonstration of the psychology of the timid Filipino, who would stand as close as he could to the President and regard him as a piece of human oddity.

On the way back to the Palace, one of the newsmen riding with him in the presidential car suggested the construction of tenement houses for the fire victims. The President was fired by the idea and admitted it was the best he could do to alleviate the sufferings of the slum dwellers.

Back in the Palace, he directed Vicente Orosa, general manager of the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation, and Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno, to huddle together and begin the construction of the tenements, setting aside P75,000 from his contingent fund.

February 23.—THIS morning the President received at the Palace representatives of fire victims from Bangkusay, Tondo. They were accompanied by Rep. Angel Castaño, whom the President had designated as chairman of the committee which will supervise the housing of fire sufferers in the proposed tenement houses to be constructed for them soon.

The President had proposed to construct a P200,000 tenement house in the area which will be two stories high, composed of 300 rooms equipped with facilities. He ordered Vicente Orosa, PHHC general manager, to start the construction as soon as possible.

THE start of the construction of an irrigation system in Nueva Ecija today gave the President a chance to go out once more to the countrysides to feel the pulse of the people on his chances of reelection.

The President took off at 1:10 p.m. at the Nichols Air Base aboard his plane, *Mount Pinatubo*, landing at the Seato airport in Mapalad, Sta. Rosa, 30 minutes later.

On hand to meet him were Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao; Health Secretary Paulino J. Garcia, who is a Novo Ecijano; Lieut. Gen. Alfonso Arellano, Armed Forces chief of staff, another Novo Ecijano; Gov. Amado Aleta; City Mayor Teodoro P. Santiago of Cabanatuan City; and the two Nueva Ecija congressmen, Jose O. Corpus and Celestino P. Juan.

From the airport the presidential party motored to barrio Atate, Bongabong, to officiate at the soil-breaking ceremonies marking the start of the construction of a P6 million irrigation system.

Nueva Ecija voters indicated this day they would turn out a heavy vote to reelect President Magsaysay next November. They welcomed the President to the province as he inaugurated the construction of a P6 million irrigation system in Bongabong and opened the Nueva Ecija-Cabanatuan City agricultural and industrial fair in Cabanatuan.

On both occasions that he addressed the people, the crowds cheered at his mention of the accomplishments of his administration for the betterment of the rural areas and of more promises to raise the standard of barrio life.

In Cabanatuan City Gov. Amado Aleta said, after the President had spoken, that several local political and civic organizations have passed resolutions endorsing President Magsaysay's reelection.

He mentioned the League of Barrio Lieutenants, the Provincial Board, the League of Municipal Treasurers, and the League of Municipal Secretaries among those which have passed the resolutions.

The President revealed for the first time that the Government was importing from Cambodia carabaos worth P5 million. He made the disclosure in barrio Atate, Bongabong, following his brief remarks during the program starting construction of the P6 million irrigation system in the area.

The President said he had written a personal letter to the premier of Cambodia to facilitate the importation of the work animals. He explained to the barrio folk that this would implement "Operations Dispersal" of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources by which each farmer would be provided with a work animal.

Speaking in Tagalog, the President said that "this is the year of implementation" of all plans to set up irrigation works in strategic sections of the country.

The Bongabong irrigation system would serve some 5,000 landowners and farmers in Cabanatuan City and the towns of Sta. Rosa and San Leonardo. A total of 10,000 hectares of ricelands would benefit from the project, which, when completed, would have a canal system 88 kilometers long.

From Bongabong the President and his party went to Cabanatuan City, where he pinned the presidential Golden Heart medal on a 73-year old farmer, Gregorio Gabawan.

Gabawan was publicly cited by the President for his donation of one hectare of his five-hectare property in Bagong Sikat, Muñoz, as a site for a barrio school.

The ceremonies were held at the grandstand of the Central Luzon School of Arts and Trade, where President Magsaysay also inducted into office the newly-elected officers of the Nueva Ecija Federation of Public School Teachers.

It was during this program that a crowd of 5,000 cheered as Gov. Aleta, who was master of ceremonies, urged his reelection.

From the grandstand after the speeches, the President walked to the site of the Nueva Ecija-Cabanatuan City agricultural and industrial fair which he formally declared open.

In the presidential party were City Mayor Teodoro P. Santiago of Cabanatuan City, Public Works Secretary Florencio Moreno, Health Secretary Paulino J. Garcia, Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, Rep. Celestino Juan, Lieut. Gen. Alfonso Arellano, AFP chief of staff, and Brig. Gen. Benito Ebuena, Air Force chief.

February 24.—ACCOMPANIED by his junior aide, Lt. Leopoldo Regis the President left Malacañang at 7:15 this morning for Quezon City to view the remains of Prof. Vicente Lontok in the University of the Philippines chapel at Diliman. He also attended a requiem mass lasting one hour in memory of the secretary to the Cabinet.

The President condoled with the Lontok family. After the mass, he returned to the Palace and ate his breakfast.

THE Malacañang press office reported no callers on the President the whole day. It merely said the President relaxed the rest of the afternoon and later tackled pending state papers in his study.

While so much heat has been generated in the House of Representatives over the anti-communist bill to the extent that the controversy is leading to a crucial showdown in the chamber's leadership, the President was keeping mum for the present.

He would not commit himself, one way or the other, beyond stating that he was subjecting the bill to "further study." The President would not also give credence to the report that Rep. Joaquin Rocas of Manila, chairman of the House committee on anti-Filipino activities and principal author of the controversial measure, has the Chief Executive's backing in demanding a showdown in the House which could mean the toppling of Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., and Rep. Arturo M. Tolentino, House majority floor leader.

February 25.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning was informed that the Manila Hotel has been making profits ever since the hotel was leased to a private operator in 1954. The report was submitted by members of the Manila Hotel board of directors with whom the President conferred.

Other matters taken up by the President with the directors of the hotel were the development and enlargement of the Pines Hotel in Baguio City and the Taal Vista Lodge in Tagaytay City. The President approved a recommendation of the directors that the Luneta Hill in Baguio be reserved for the development of the Pines Hotel. The development would include cottages around the Pines Hotel which would be rented to Baguio vacationists and visitors.

The directors told the President that while the Manila Hotel Company suffered a loss of P382,848 in 1953, it realized a profit of P44,565 in 1954–1955 after it was leased. The profit increased to P50,462 in 1955–1956. The directors also told the President that there was a gradual settlement of the GSIS loan which was granted to the Manila Hotel in 1954. From P4,003,674 the GSIS loan went down to P3,273,270 last January 31, 1957.

The Manila Hotel directors showed the President plans for the development of the Pines Hotel and the Taal Vista Lodge. Among the directors who conferred with the President were Ramon del Rosario, chairman, Octavio Ronquillo, Fred Borromeo, Larry Marquez, Ernesto Ledesma, and Oscar Arellano.

The first caller of the President was Dean Robert G. Storey of 'the College of Law of the Southern Methodist, University of Dallas, Texas. Dean Storey, who is also the president of the Inter-American Bar Association and adviser to President Syngman Rhee in the judiciary reorganization of Korea, has been appointed by United States President Eisenhower to confer with the Fulbright Commission here. Dean Storey paid a courtesy call on the President with his wife. They were accompanied by officers of the Philippine Lawyers Association headed by Arturo Alafriz, president.

Representatives of insurance companies also called on the President and complained against the GSIS bill filed in Congress seeking to amend the GSIS law. The insurance representatives said that the bill had a monopolistic tendency in the issuance of motor car insurance. The President said he was also against any monopoly, much less a government monopoly, in principle. He said that he would discuss the matter with GSIS General Manager Rodolio P. Andal.

The delegates to the First Asian Student Press Conference were also received by the President. The delegates said that during their conference which closed Sunday, February 24, at the Ateneo, they agreed that an Asian Student Press Information Bureau should be established to disseminate student news among the Asian countries.

The President inducted the officers of the Philippine Association of Civil Engineers. Among the officers were Antonio Avecilla, president; Ambrosio Flores, vice-president; Jose E. Jacinto, secretary; Eligio de Guzman, treasurer; and Jose Garrido, Alfredo Juinio, Gaudencio Antonio, Jose Bernales, Mario Bundalian, and Benjamin Felix, directors.

Another group of officers inducted by the President were the officers of the Philippine Producers and Exporters' Association headed by Gaudencio Antonio, president; P.B. Dionisio, 1st vice-president; Gregorio Norriega, 2nd vice-president; Brigido Valencia, 3rd vice-president; Amado Lamsang, secretary; and Ramon Bagatsing, treasurer.

Members of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines headed by B. M. Medrano and former Commerce Secretary Cornelio Balmaceda, also called on the President. The Chief Executive said he would have a conference with them some time next week in order to exchange ideas.

An invitation to the Philippines to participate in the 50th anniversary of Oklahoma's statehood was extended to the President in a letter from Oklahoma Governor Raymond Gary. The letter was handed to the President by Roy S. Tucker, Far East resident representative of the J. I. Case and Company of Wisconsin. Oklahoma's 50th anniversary will be held on November 18, 1957.

The President accepted an invitation from the Pangasinan Medical Society to be the guest at the induction of the society's officers in Dagupan City on March 9. Those who extended the invitation were D. Francisco Duque, incoming president of the Philippine Medical Association; Dr. Rodolfo Guiang, incoming president of the Pangasinan Medical Society; Dr. Vicente Samson, outgoing president of the Pangasinan Medical Society; Dr. Arturo Reyes, director of the Pangasinan Provincial Hospital; Dr. Consorcia Bautista, Dr. Sergio San Juan, Dr. Braulio de

Venecia, and Mamerto Banatin of the Philippine Medical Association. The Pangasinan physicians were accompanied by Gov. Conrado Estrella.

Officers and members of the Philippine Chemical Society were also among the callers of the President. The PCS officers requested the President to fill up the vacancy in the Board of Examiners for Chemists and recommended the name of Herminigildo Rosales, president of the society. The President said he would study the matter. Among the society members who called on the President were Dr. Joaquin Maraño, Dr. Amando Clemente, Dr. Ricardo Marfori, and Jose C. Olivares.

A delegation of the Philippine Deaf, Blind, and Crippled Association, Inc., complained to the President that their association was omitted as one of the beneficiaries of the 1957 fund drive for the deaf, blind, and physically handicapped. The President said that he would look into the matter and assured the members of the delegation that they would all be treated equally and with justice.

Several resolutions from the barrio councils of Ozamis City endorsing the re-election of the President were submitted to the Chief Executive by Ozamis City Mayor Angel Medina. The Mayor saw the President in connection with the fire which occurred in his city last week. With Mayor Medina was Wilfredo Chiong, city assessor.

The President received a heavy schedule of callers from 8:30 a.m. up to past 1 p.m. Among his many callers included Public Works Undersecretary Rafael Contreres, NAWASA Board Chairman Jesus Vargas, NAWASA General Manager Susano Negado, Col. Luis Morohambsar and a group of Muslim students in Manila.

The National Federation of Spanish Professors headed by Prof. Antonio Abad, members of the Philippine Women Dental Society, and Aranayo Pugong and two Ifugaos from the Mountain Province, who sought the aid of the President in their claim for backpay as guerrillas, were among the delegations that called on the President.

THE President today granted a 10-day reprieve to convict Maximiano Floresca, who was scheduled to be electrocuted at the National Penitentiary in Muntinglupa this afternoon.

The 10-day stay of execution was granted by the President after he was informed that the convict was honorably discharged from the Army as a corporal. The Army record of Floresca showed that he had fought many times against dissidents.

The President was asked by the doomed man's kin to study the Army record of Floresca to find any justification for possible commutation of the death penalty to life imprisonment. The Chief Executive sent for the former commanding officer of the convict to shed light on the latter's Army record.

The President's grant of reprieve was immediately transmitted to Muntinglupa by Judge Salvador Esguerra, Malacañang legal adviser. The Chief Executive granted the stay of execution after talking to Leovigildo Floresca and Paulina Floresca, father and sister of the convict, who were accompanied by Reps. Manuel Cases of La Union and Jose Corpuz of Nueva Ecija.

February 26.—THIS morning, the President received callers at his study in Malacañang.

A delegation from La Union which included Sen. Alejo Mabanag, Rep. Manuel Cases, and Gov. Bernardo Gapuz requested that the Philippine Tobacco Administration be ordered to purchase native tobacco, instead of Virginia tobacco, from producers in the Cagayan Valley. The group believed this was necessary "in order to spread prosperity among all tobacco producers."

Malacañang visitors were made up mainly of provincial delegations which sought financial assistance for their respective localities.

Such delegations were those from Negros Occidental headed by Sen. Jose Locsin and Mayors Guido Castellanes of Calatrava, Sofronio Carmona of San Carlos, Romulo Gulez of Silay, and Quintin Catalvas of Sagay; from Quezon, made up of Gov. Leon Guinto, Sr., Reps. Manuel Enverga and Leon Guinto, Jr., and Mayors Godofredo Tan of San Narciso, Felix Alpay of Alabat, Pedro Francia of Agdañganan, Francisco Enriquez of Atimonan, Pedro Almeda of Mulanay, Vicente Martinez of Pitogo, and Hobart Dator of Lucban; from Lanao, headed by Sen. Domocao Alonto and Mayor Datu Macarimbang Pantaran of Carromatan; from Sulu, accompanied by Sen. Roseller Lim and headed by Gov. Leon Fernandez; from Bulacan, accompanied by Sen. Francisco Delgado; from Misamis Occidental, headed by Rep. William Chiongbian and Mayors Francisco Paylaga of Jimenez and Cesar Dumalazan of Plaridel; from Albay, accompanied by Rep. Tecla Ziga; from Palawan, headed by Rep. Gaudencio Abordo; from Isabela, headed by Rep. Jose Albano; and from Laguna, accompanied by Gov. Dominador Chipeco.

At 11 a.m., the President asked Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon to receive the rest of his callers to enable him to proceed to the Manila Hotel, where he was guest speaker at the opening day of the sugar producers' convention.

Speaker Protempore Daniel Romualdez accompanied a group of municipal mayors from Leyte who requested assistance for public works improvements of their respective municipalities. The mayors were Alfredo Bantog of Maasin, president of the mayors' league, Graciano Capili of St. Bernard, Elpidio Monge of Palo, Santiago Paladin of San Miguel, Vicente Yutangco of Dulag, and Matias Palaina of Tolosa.

President Magsaysay today authorized the release of P100,000 from his contingent fund to start the construction of tenement houses for fire victims in Bangkusay, Tondo, and to enable the fire sufferers composed of laborers' families to acquire the housing units on an easy installment plan.

The President released the amount in the course of a conference with Vicente Orosa, PHHC general manager, at Malacañang this morning. Manager Orosa called to submit plans of the proposed tenement houses to be constructed by the PHHC at a cost of P200,000, for the President's approval.

The Chief Executive instructed Orosa to sell the housing units to the laborers' families at P10 a month per family over 20 years. He said that the laborers could not afford to pay P20 a month over 15 years as originally planned by the PHHC.

In order to make these housing units available to the fire victims at nominal cost, the President ordered Benjamin Vilorio, a representative of the Budget Commission attached to the President's office, to release P100,000 from his contingent fund to cover up whatever losses the PHHC might incur in the project. He told Vilorio to turn over the amount to the PHHC right away so that construction of the low-cost homes could be started immediately.

About 11 a.m., the President left Malacañang and motored to the Manila Hotel to address delegates to the two-day National Congress of the Sugar Industry sponsored jointly by the Philippine Sugar Association and the National Federation of Sugar Planters.

The President said in his speech, that the sugar industry ranked as one of the top contributors to the national wealth and to the support of the government. "You can therefore rest assured of the continued cooperation of the Administration in your efforts to promote the best interest of the industry," he added.

The Chief Executive was introduced by Jose Mapa Gomez, president of the National Federation of Sugarcane Planters. With him on the speaker's platform were Manuel Elizalde, president of the Philippine Sugar Association; Gerald Wilkinson, first vice-president; Carlos Rivilla, second vice-president; Jose Romero, secretary-treasurer; and Salvador Benedicto, NFSP director.

The President received a standing ovation from some 1,000 delegates gathered at the Manila Hotel's Winter Garden as he entered and left the convention hall. Among the delegates were national and provincial government officials from sugar-producing provinces. Also with the President on the speaker's platform were Sens. Fernando Lopez and Jose C. Locsin; Reps. Carlos Hilado of Negros Occidental and Dionisio Macapagal of Pampanga; and former NEC Chairman Alfredo Montelibano.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay directed today in a letter to Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason that all national prisoners on special assignments outside the penitentiary in Muntinglupa, Rizal, be returned immediately to confinement in Muntinglupa.

The President issued the order “in order to minimize as much as possible evasion of sentence and violation of prison rules and regulations by the escape of some and the circumvention of regulations by others with the abetment and tolerance of those having custody over them.”

DELEGATES to the Fourth National Congress of the Sugar Industry currently being held in Manila called at Malacañang this afternoon, and reiterated their pledge of support for President Magsaysay’s reelection.

A resolution presented to the President and signed by leaders of the sugar industry said: “In reiteration of the pledge we made to President Magsaysay on the occasion of his last birthday anniversary, we the chosen representatives of the sugar planters and millers, gathered in convention today, February 26, 1957, do hereby promise to support his reelection and that of Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia.”

The resolution was presented by Jose Mapa Gomez, president of the National Federation of Sugarcane Planters, who acted as spokesman for the group. Gomez, in presenting the resolution, said:

“Dear Mr. President: In 1953, as you know, in our humble way we fought for your victory. Happily, you were elected. More than three years have passed after that. Even in the most remote barrios the people can see tangible public improvements. We are all aware of your concern for the welfare of the masses. Peace and order now prevail all over the Philippines. You have served our people well, so well that four years of such service is too short. You will recall, Mr. President, that we with the people of Negros Occidental, in July 1956 gave public expression of the clamor for your reelection, together with our pledge of support to you.

“This pledge was reiterated by a signed manifesto, which was delivered to you personally on the occasion of your birthday anniversary.

“Mr. President, you and Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia truly deserve reelection. I am happy to assure you that we are behind both of you one hundred per cent.”

The Chief Executive, in his response, thanked the group for their pledge of support. He then discussed with them some major problems besetting the sugar industry today. He suggested that a committee be formed composed of leaders of the industry to make recommendations on how the government could best help to solve those problems. He said he wanted to extend assistance to the sugar industry not only because it was one of the nation’s dollar-producing industries, but also because he wanted to put it in a position to improve the living conditions of thousands of farmers and laborers, engaged in sugar production.

The President received the convention delegates at cocktails he gave at Malacañang in their honor. During the affair, one of the delegates, Angel Locsin, 49, of Binalbagan, Negros Occidental, suffered a fainting spell. Dr. Francisco Casanova of the Malacañang Clinic, whom the President hastily summoned to the Palace, diagnosed the case as “indigestion coupled with exhaustion.” He said Locsin’s heart and blood pressure were normal.

Among those present at the affair were Manuel Elizalde, president of the Philippine Sugar Association; Gerald Wilkinson, first vice-president; Carlos Rivilla, second vice-president; Commerce Secretary Oscar Ledesma; former NEC Chairman Alfredo Montelibano; Sen. Jose Locsin; Rep. Lorenzo Teves; former Ambassador Jose Romero; and provincial and municipal government officials from sugar-producing regions throughout the country.

The affair lasted from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

February 27.—THIS morning the President received only limited number of callers at Malacañang because of the regular weekly Cabinet scheduled at 10 a.m.

A delegation from the Philippine Pearl Button Manufacturers Association called to submit a petition seeking the implementation of an executive order issued sometime last year banning the exportation of sea shells used as raw materials in the manufacture of pearl buttons. The group asked that such exportation should be permitted only after the needs of local manufacturers had been filled.

Headed by Hersh Swiryn of the Shell-Craft and Button Corporation, the group was composed of Donato Pañgilinan, Jr., of Manila Pearl Button, Alfredo Salta of Pacific Pearl Button Craft, Melquiades Virata of the factory bearing his name, Jose Olivares of Ocean Pearl Button, Marcelo Hao of Century Button, F. Gutierrez of Philippine Buttoncraft, and Luis Concepcion, legal counsel of the association.

Another caller was Vicente Orosa, PHHC general manager, whom the President instructed to study the government housing system in Hongkong said to be a sort of joint enterprise between the government and private corporations. The President provided Orosa with a pamphlet explaining the operation of the system and asked him to look into the possibility of its adoption here.

Other callers included Reps. Manuel Zosa and Ramon Durano of Cebu and Govs. Juan Triviño of Camarines Sur and Marcelo Adduru of Cagayan, who requested more NAMARCO distribution centers in his province.

The President convoked the meeting of his Cabinet about 10:30 a.m. However, after about one hour, he asked Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason to preside over the meeting because of his engagement at the Manila hotel.

Fetches from Malacañang by former Gov. Dominador Mañgubat, the Chief Executive arrived at the convention hall about 11:45 a.m. He was back at Malacañang shortly before 1 p.m.

The President and the Cabinet at their meeting today extended the open account agreement with Japan for a period ending April 30, 1957. The last extension of the agreement is due to expire February 28, 1957.

The Cabinet and the President made this decision after receiving a report of the NEC presiding officer and a memorandum from the foreign office on the proposal to extend the present trade and financial agreements between the Philippines and Japan. The extension of the open account agreement for a period up to and including April 30, 1957, was given, pending conclusion of a more permanent arrangement to be effected on or before April 30, 1957.

The Cabinet unanimously passed a resolution condoling with the family of the late Prof. Vicente Lontok, former secretary of the Cabinet and the Council of State and chief of the General Affairs Division. Lontok died last February 22, of heart attack.

In its resolution, the Cabinet paid tribute to Lontok for efficiency in his work and for loyalty to duty shown during the many years that he had served the government in various capacities.

At the same time, the President designated Aguinaldo Maaba as acting secretary of the Cabinet and of the Council of State and as acting chief of the General Affairs Division, to take the place of the late Prof. Lontok. Maaba had been Lontok's senior assistant since the time of the late President Quirino. His designation took effect immediately and will continue until further advice.

The President said that henceforth he would call Cabinet meetings twice a week; namely, every Tuesday morning and every Friday afternoon. The reason for this new schedule is the President's desire to dispatch more matters requiring Cabinet attention.

The Cabinet discussed only routine matters after the President had left; such as, official trips of government employees who will undertake specialized studies abroad. The Cabinet meeting ended at 12:25 p.m.

PRESIDENT Magsaysay this noon was presented with a resolution unanimously passed by the Federation of Filipino Rice and Corn Millers, Inc., now on its third annual national convention at the Winter Garden, Manila Hotel, pledging unconditional support for his reelection.

The resolution was presented at the convention hall this noon amidst a prolonged standing ovation from some 1,000 delegates representing rice and corn millers from various parts of the country. The President was guest of honor at the opening of the convention this morning.

Instead of delivering the usual speech as guest speaker of the occasion, the President held an open forum wherein the conventionists were given an opportunity to bring to his attention some of their most pressing problems. Among the requests received by the President were the amendment of the law requiring millers to pre-mix rice with enriched grain and the abolition of the two per cent internal revenue tax imposed on millers.

Gov. Dominador Chipeco of Laguna, one of the delegates, who brought up the question of the enriched rice law, explained that millers found considerable difficulty in complying with the law, especially in the rural areas. He said that pre-mixing of rice needed a special type of machinery. Chipeco suggested that the law be amended to make it optional rather than compulsory on the millers to pre-mix their rice.

The President said he would invite Congress leaders to a conference in Malacañang and take up with them the proposed amendment. He agreed that enriched rice would perhaps be unnecessary if the people were taught to eat brown rice said to be as rich with vitamins as the enriched rice. He said that rural health officers of the Department of Health could also distribute vitamin pills to people in remote areas instead of requiring them to eat enriched rice whose production required a more complicated process. He observed that people in the rural areas were more in need of these vitamins than those in the cities who usually have more sumptuous diets.

Regarding the proposed abolition of the two per cent internal revenue tax, the Chief Executive said he would confer with the collector of internal revenue on the matter. It was suggested that the operating license paid annually by the millers be raised to a certain percentage instead of the two per cent levy. The President agreed with the suggestion saying, among other things, that with all taxes due from millers set at a fixed annual rate, it would leave so many government collectors free to work on other sources of revenue.

The President was introduced to the gathering by former Gov. Dominador Mañgubat of Cavite, treasurer of the federation, as the “man who will still be our President for the next four years.” Another speaker was Efren V. Mendoza, federation president, who delivered the welcome address.

IN the afternoon, the President received the credentials of Swedish Minister Jens H. P. A. Malling and Norwegian Minister Erik Dons at ceremonies held at the Malacañang ceremonial hall at 4:15 p.m. and 4:35 p.m., respectively.

The ceremonies were attended by Malacañang officials headed by Executive Secretary Fortunato de Leon, Assistant Executive Secretary Mariano Yenko, Jr., Protocol Officer Manuel G. Zamora and Minister Tomas de Castro and foreign office officials headed by Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Raul S. Manglapus, Protocol Officer Jose Estrada, and Pedro Angara-Aragon.

Minister Dons was accompanied by Counsellor Olav MoltkeHanser.

February 28.—PRESIDENT Magsaysay this morning received a large delegation representing some 400 families in Santol-Bukid, Quezon City, which sought his intervention regarding a court order ejecting them from their homes following their protracted litigation with the administrators of the Tuason Estate.

Headed by Segundo Gonzalez, Antonio Abibuag, and Sixto Esquieras, the group informed the President that these families had occupied the lands for many years, having been handed down to them by their forefathers. On the other hand, administrators of the Tuason Estate claimed that the 45 hectares in dispute was part of the 2,500 hectares of the estate, which contention the Supreme Court had upheld.

The President expressed his eagerness to help the families. He said, however, that it was not within his power to stay the execution of the court order. He suggested that leaders of the delegation confer with Judge Salvador Esguerra, Malacañang legal adviser, and also with Justice Secretary Pedro Tuason, if necessary, to find out whether there was any legal remedy available to the evicted families.

“If there is anything I can legally do to help you, I will gladly do it,” the President assured the delegation.

Another delegation from Baco, Mindoro Oriental, requested the President’s assistance in the acquisition of lands they had cleared and cultivated for many years and to which other persons had perfect titles. The group was accompanied by Gov. Francisco Infantado.

The President contacted Commissioner Manuel Castañeda of the Land Tenure Administration by telephone and instructed him to send representatives to Mindoro and other provinces where similar disputes had been reported. He told Castañeda to expropriate the lands if it was the only way to give justice to the settlers and prevent possible unrest in those areas.

Gov. Marcos Malupa and Rep. Jorge Abad of Batanes headed a joint delegation of Liberal and Nacionalista leaders from their province. They informed the President that the factions were uniting to support his bid for re-election.

Municipal officials from Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija, headed by Mayor Benedicto Ramos presented a resolution endorsing the candidacy of Pete de Jesus of the *Evening News* for congressman of the first district of their province. Similar resolutions had previously been received in Malacañang from other municipalities of the province. Others in the Nueva Ecija delegation were Vice-Mayor Catalino Ocampo and Councilor Josue Mendoza.

A group of workers from the Manila Railroad Company, accompanied by Vicente Olazo, submitted a petition seeking the President’s support to a bill currently pending in Congress exempting workers of government corporations from the civil service qualification requirement. The group claimed that the civil service requirement was keeping the MRR from employing good mechanics who had no civil service eligibility.

The Chief Executive received callers at his study from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Other delegations were those from Cagayan accompanied by Rep. Felipe Garduque; from Quezon, headed by Rep. Leon Guinto, Jr. and Mayor David Valenzuela of Baler; from Misamis Occidental, headed by Gov. Diego Ty Deling and Mayors Patricio Atay of Calamba and Cesar Dumalagan of Plaridel; from Sta. Cruz, Marinduque, headed by Mayor Lorenzo Belarmino; from Cayapa, Nueva Vizcaya, accompanied by Rep. Leonardo Perez; from Porac, Pampanga, headed by Mayor Higinio Gopez; from Laoag, Ilocos Norte, headed by Gov. Antonio Raquiza and Acting Mayor Elias Asuncion; from Malvar, Batangas, headed by Vice-Mayor Filemon Lat and Councilor Jose Manalo; and from Pasig, Rizal, headed by Mayor Emiliano Carruncho, Jr.

The President also received H. H. Scudder, visiting executive vice-president of the International Standard Electric Corporation, who called to pay his respects. Scudder was accompanied by C. C. Chapman, Manila representative, of the firm, and Juan C. Orendain, legal counsel.

THE President today issued a directive to the export control committee reminding it that the Cabinet had banned on November 21, 1956, the exportation of scrap iron.

The President told the committee members to stop processing applications or recommending to the Cabinet exportation of scrap iron inasmuch as the Cabinet had definitely banned its exportation.

The members of the export control committee are Agriculture Secretary Juan de G. Rodriguez, chairman; and Defense Undersecretary Jose M. Crisol and OEC Deputy Administrator Juan Concon, as members.

Malacañang said this day that implementation of the reorganization of the Department of Commerce and Industry will be postponed until the appointment and qualification to office of the directors of the Bureaus of Domestic Trade, Foreign Trade, Cooperatives Administration, and Industrial Promotion. These four new bureaus have been created in the reorganization of the department.

Source: **National Library of the Philippines**

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